



American Legion
Alpharetta Post 201, Inc.

PO Box 314
Alpharetta, GA 30009

MINUTES

General Meeting – January 17, 2017

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 7 PM in the main hall of Post 201 by *Commander Dennis Turner*. The colors were presented by the Centennial High School Army JROTC Knights Battalion color guard and prayer was offered by *Chaplain Past Commander Martha Conway*. All officers and Executive Committee members were present. There were no guests and new member Bob Anderson, who transferred from Iowa, introduced himself. The minutes of the December 2016 and January 2017 Executive Committee meetings were approved.

REPORTS

Membership – *Membership Chair Tom Billings* reported that membership stood at 680 which is 82% of our goal of 830. He presented six new members and six transfers for membership. All were approved unanimously.

Finance – *Finance Officer Fred Swyters* reported that account balances as of December 31, 2016 were as follows:

<i>Club House account</i>	\$7,461.70	<i>Post</i>	\$24,032.92
<i>Bingo</i>	6,039.01	<i>Baseball</i>	1,079.30
<i>Walk of Memories</i>	5,666.07	<i>Cash on Hand</i>	6,700.00
<i>TOTAL</i>			\$51,070.80

Baseball – *Commander Turner* reported that teams had already started practice and the first game of a more than 200-game season is scheduled for February. We are still waiting for our first \$10-K check pursuant to our agreement with *One Thing for Youth*.

Bingo – *Commander Turner* then reported that bingo revenue was down in December, although some seasonal drop is to be expected. A committee formed to deal with the declining bingo situation and lack of volunteers met tonight. No decision was made on revising the bingo schedule to possibly discontinue Monday nights. They'll give it another month. *Commander Turner* stressed that help was badly needed or we could lose \$40-K in annual revenue.

Children & Youth – *Jr VC Lisa Dernovich* gave a broad overview of the year ahead.

Scouting – *Scouting Coordinator Ed Holben* reported that Troop 51's plan for a major flag retirement ceremony here on January 28th was on track. Invitations have been sent to local government figures, military recruiters, police/fire/EMTs other Scout troops and the news media.

Oratorical Contest – *Oratorical chair Ed Holben* reported that he has one firm candidate and three more probables'. He is getting his staff (timers, judges, greeters, etc.) together and will meet with them in a week or so. Our competition is scheduled for Jan. 28, 2017.

Food Chair – *Food chair Winston Brunn* gave kudos to ALA members Jane Turner, Karen Hicks and Rose Blackburn for their hard work in the preparation and serving of tonight's meal.

Service Officer – *Sr VC Bob Shafer* recounted some of his efforts to help a Vietnam vet who's down on his luck.



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Walk of Memories - *Judge Advocate Charles Turner* said the raffle of a home protection weapon netted some \$750 "profit" and that generous donations were coming in from other sources.

Dances – *Finance Officer Swyters* reported that the dance revenue for the past December was \$9400.

SAL Commander Derek Garmon - said that the SAL membership was at 50% of their 210 goal. He called attention to the new 65" TV in the club room which was donated by the SAL.

Old Soldiers Day – *Executive Committee chair Jay Coleman* said there would be an OSD planning meeting tomorrow (Jan. 18th) at 6:30 PM to get the ball rolling for this year's parade and celebration. An event chairperson is needed for this year's program committee.

Boys State – *Boys State chair Ken Christian* said that he already has applicants and needs to set the date and other particulars.

Old Business

Commander Turner refreshed our memories about the child hurt on our property July 4th when a gate closure cut off one third of a finger. *Commander Turner* said our insurance company settled a pending lawsuit by the child's family for \$800,000. There is great concern about the settlement's impact on our insurability come renewal time later this year.

Notice was given of the celebration of life Sat. Jan 21 for our beloved NiNi Lynch, past president of our ALA and past national ALA chaplain, who recently passed away after a long illness.

New Business

Legionnaire Matthew Connelly said that he felt we needed to improve our internal and external communications. He wants to set up a committee for that purpose. The Adjutant referred him to our PR chair PPC Marty Farrell and Jr VC Dernovich who are already working the issue.

Good of the Legion

PPC Farrell raised the issue of what actions were we taking to prevent a repeat of the accident which resulted in the high settlement. The Executive Committee has been charged with doing a look-back to get insights for future prevention actions. *Executive Committeeman Ed Holben*, himself in the risk management business, gave some helpful advice about steps that could be taken in conjunction with our insurance carrier to prevent future losses. A spirited discussion took place which reinforced the need for Executive Committee management of the issue.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Esker, Adjutant