



American Legion  
Alpharetta Post 201, Inc.

PO Box 314  
Alpharetta, GA 30009

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## MINUTES

### Executive Committee Meeting

March 14, 2017

*Chair Jay Coleman* called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. All Post officers and committee members were present except *Sr VC Bob Shafer* who was excused. *Membership chair Tom Billings* was also excused. Guests included *SAL Commander Derek Garmon*, *SAL Adjutant Bruce Kaufmann* and *Legionnaires Bob Chickillo, Bob Quinn and Jimmy Ellis*.

*Chair Coleman* opened the meeting by saying that declining revenue is not the #1 problem, apathy is #1! He showed a list from five years ago of 57 active committee members for Old Soldiers Day – last year it was down to only five and there is still no chair for the iconic event this year. He affirmed that after 17 years he, too, was out after this year's parade. This provoked a spirited discussion including the need to communicate better and attract new members. The discussion was a positive one.

#### Reports

*Finance – Finance Officer Fred Swyters* reported that account balances as of February 28th, 2017, were as follows:

Club House account	\$6,391.46	Post	\$15,776.63
Bingo	7,206.21	Baseball	8,643.79
Walk of Memories	5,724.93	Cash on Hand	6,700.00

TOTAL \$50,443.02

The Finance officer noted that bingo revenue had picked up in the last three sessions. He also said that there seems to be a lot of unpaid attendees at the dances. The committee reacted favorably to the idea of a hand stamp ID for paid patrons. He also said that bar revenue at the dances is down and perhaps patrons were smuggling in their own drinks or going out to their cars to imbibe. *PPC Bob Byrd* gave an overview of some weaknesses from his perspective as former entertainment chair and said they included security, marketing and types of music. They need to be addressed with the dance coordinators.

*Finance Officer Swyters* then told of many years-old drink tickets being cashed in as well as various people printing their version of the tickets. He feels we are losing revenue with the lack of control. He proposed eliminating the tickets which provoked a lively discussion of the pros and cons. Some points included substituting chips, centralizing printing and accounting of tickets and ageing out old tickets. The committee passed a motion for the finance officer to design a uniform drink ticket system and come up with an implementation plan that includes an approved 31 Dec. 2017 expiration date for all outstanding tickets from the old system.

*Membership – The Adjutant* reported that membership stood at 745 which was 90% of our goal of 830. He noted that we were in last place in the 9<sup>th</sup> District

*House Committee – Jr VC Lisa Dernovish* interim chair of the House committee during the current chair's absence read the minutes of their meeting which had three passed action items – (1.) Allow a yoga instructor to use our main hall for classes on Friday mornings with a 50/50 split of proceeds; (2.) the electronic sign will be installed in the foyer and (3.) Revive the Queen of Hearts game for Friday nights in the club room. She also added that she and Legionnaire Steve O. are reworking the bulletin boards. A motion was made to accept the



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house committee minutes minus the items on yoga classes and Queen of Hearts – they need further clarification. Motion passed (note that yoga classes on Saturday mornings was approved later by email vote).

Bingo – *Chairman Coleman* summarized recent bingo meetings and marketing efforts. There was a question about the leased computers used by players and he emphasized that it speeds the game and attracts players. He characterized them as a “good investment”.

Baseball – *Post Commander Dennis Turner* shared the weekend game schedule. *Ed Holben* then asked if there was any opportunity for our Scout troop to operate the concession stand once a month as a fund raiser. This was referred to the baseball committee.

Scholarships – The commander and executive committee welcomed *Ray Smith and Tom Billings* as co-chairs of this year’s scholarship program. The Post is looking to sponsor four (4) \$1000 scholarships which were approved subject to the availability of funds and the SAL commander said they would also sponsor four. One of their four would be in honor of the late *SAL Treasurer Ricky Gimpel*. Applications are usually due by the end of May.

Destroyed Outdoor Sign – *Jr VC Dernovish* got in touch with the appropriate insurance company regarding the destroyed sign. Their offered settlement was considered far too low considering that we must replace the sign under current building codes. *Ed Holben* has written to the company (Nationwide) expressing our disapproval and asking for full replacement value. There was some discussion and the committee will be kept informed on the issue.

Automatic Electronic Defibrillators – The defibrillator has arrived and *Sgt at Arms Mark Sharples* will take on getting proper training for our personnel as well as placement of the device and its security

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pete Esker, Adjutant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Pete Esker".