

American Legion Post 257
Meeting of Executive Committee
July 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 1620 hours in Clubhouse One, in Laguna Woods by Post Commander, Warren Marr.

Those present were Warren Marr, Mike Layton, Jerry Anderson, Hugh Seamster, Mike Evans, Jo Ann Killian, Vanda Bresnan, Lou Tirado, Wally Gramberg. Ed Brockett, Ken Sigmund, Nick Alpino, Vince Howley, Joe Rainey, Charles Williams and Bivian Marr.

Invocation was led by Joe Rainey.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Commander.

A Letter of Resignation from Jim Shaffer was read. He will be recognized for his many years of service to the Post at the September Meeting.

The Minutes of the June meeting were approved as corrected. At the June General Meeting of the Post the following officers were unanimously elected by the membership:

Commander-Warren Marr
First Vice Commander-Mike Layton
Second Vice Commander-Jerry Anderson
Third Vice Commander-Hugh Seamster

After all accounting of the July 4th Concert and Cookout has been completed by the Outgoing Financial Officer, Sam Higa, the financial records of the Post will be transferred to Nick Alpino. The bank signature cards will be signed by the outgoing and incoming officers as required by the Union Bank and all other forms and groups will be amended or notified of changes in Post officers.

Each of the "four new officers" gave a two minute informal life history to better acquaint themselves to those present.

The New Commander, Warren Marr, said that the new leadership should be focused on recruiting "Viet Nam Era" new members to keep the Post vibrant. Mike Layton will head the Membership Committee, comprised of two new members he has recruited and volunteers from the floor, Ed Brockett and Ken Sigmund. Upon his review of the by-laws, the Commander finds no description of an "Executive Board." There is, instead, an "Executive Committee" to manage the business of the Post. The Commander stated that "Committee" was a more accurate term than "Board" because the "Executive Committee" functions as the line management of the Post. Therefore, there will be no further reference to a nonexistent "Executive Board".

Nick Alpino will chair the Finance Committee comprised of volunteers from the floor; Joe Rainey and Sam Higa. A discussion of increasing dues or increasing the price of dinners at the General Meetings followed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to increase the cost of

dinners to \$15.00 and to change from a buffet to a served dinner.

The Commander intends to formalize the Dinner Meetings. He would like improved flag decorum and concise officer reports at the meetings. A motion to omit the POW/MIA ceremony was defeated, but the Commander said he would consider an abbreviated form. Starting with the September Dinner Meeting he would like New Members to be introduced, their branch of the military and their conflict identified. He would like the new members to receive a formal welcome and be given Legion pins. New members should immediately become involved with the Post and be given responsibilities.

Discussion followed of embroidered stars that were at one time given for each 5 years of membership in the Post, the Commander agreed to revive that procedure. First Vice Commander Mike Layton will add ceremony to meetings when appropriate starting at the September Meeting.

The July 4 Concert and Cookout is the first event in the new leadership's plan to add an additional regular event to the Post Calendar. Several different kinds of events are being considered but nothing has been decided upon yet. Second Vice Commander Hugh Seamster to research options. Lottery dates results are expected after August 1. This is to attract more new members to join the Post as well as developing more camaraderie among existing members.

It was determined that the Post has stopped collecting donations for Operation Interdependence. The Commander stated that the Post could not continue to claim that it was participating in this activity unless it actually was. Since a need still exists, it was decided that the 1st Vice Commander would again start soliciting donations from the membership.

Discussion of the Post's presence on Facebook was discussed; a host needs to be found if this is to continue. Also, a host for the Post Website needs to be found, the Commander suggested that perhaps a high school student might be interested. Someone needs to be found to produce The Post Newsletter, too. Mike Layton will host a table at the July 9th Kiwanis New Residents Program.

Sam Higa brought up the benefits the Post gains from collaborating with Kiwanis. A motion was made, seconded and carried that Kiwanis will be allowed to sell tickets for their Ice Cream Social at the July 4 Concert and Cookout.

A letter written by Andrew Hseih about his experience at Boy's State was read and a video he made entitled "Life in the Day of a Federalist" was shown. Nick Alpino volunteered to be the new Boy's State Chairperson to replace Commander Marr. Nick will need to work with the High School Counselors to better inform them and the student candidates about the American Legion and Boy's State and what they are intended to accomplish.

Mike Evans stated that he expects to continue in the

position of Post Service Officer.

The Commander stated that the Committee should plan to give scholarships to Jr ROTC Cadet(s) in November at Veterans Day.

The Quartermaster, Vince Howley, was instructed to order Legion Baseball Caps, Membership applications, brochures, small legion pins and signs that identify officers for meetings.

Sam Higa, Historian, brought up the need for guidelines designating what should be saved, without them he has been saving things randomly.

Joe Rainey needs more people in the Honor Guard to fulfill all the requests. They will be presenting the colors at July 4th Evening Concert at Clubhouse Two.

Wally Gramberg said reservations are filled for the Laughlin trip but are lagging for the Cruise. He has a January/ 2016 trip to Laughlin planned and another cruise in April 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1820 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bivian Marr
Acting Secretary

