

All Ex-Co Members

**NOTICE OF THE SRI LANKA EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – APRIL 2019**

Monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen's Association will be held at **1530 hrs on Thursday 11th April 2019 at the SLESI "Danthurai Hall", No. 29, Bristol Street, Colombo 01.**

If an Ex-Co member wishes to be excused for some reason, appreciate if you could make arrangements to keep SLESA Office informed.



Ajith Siyambalapitiya
Lt. Colonel (Rtd)
Hon Secretary General - Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen's Association

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Notice convening the Meeting
2. Excuses
3. Vote of condolence for deceased Members/ Servicemen
4. Confirmation of minutes of the Ex-Co meeting, held on 27th March 2019
5. Matters arising, out of the previous minutes
6. Update on Poppy Project
7. Tabling of Accounts for March 2019
8. Tabling Reports of SLESA Committees
9. Letters Received
10. Correspondence / Matters to be taken up
11. Any other business

Distribution:

H E The President - Patron
Commander of the SL Army - Vice Patron
Commander of the SL Navy - Vice Patron
Commander of the SL Air Force - Vice Patron
Chairman – SLESI
Trustees of SLESA
Affiliated Associations / Corporate Bodies of SLESA

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE SRI LANKA EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, HELD ON THURSDAY THE 27TH MARCH 2019 AT 1530 HRS AT AT VIJITHAPURA HALL OF THE SRI LANKA EX-SERVICEMEN'S INSTITUTE, NO. 29/1, BRISTOL STREET, COLOMBO 01

PRESENT:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1. Brigadier K A Gnanaweera | - | President/ Chaired the meeting |
| 2. Major General E M M Ambanpola | - | Vice President |
| 3. Rear Admiral (Dr.) Shemal Fernando | - | Vice President |
| 4. Wing Commander K M S Wijenayake | - | Vice President |
| 5. Lt. Col. Ajith Siyambalapitiya | - | Hony. Secretary General |
| 6. Lt. Col. D M Amarakoon | - | Hony. Treasurer |
| 7. Lt. (Dr.) Priyangani Jayasundara | - | Assistant Secretary |
| 8. Mr. S S Gunawardena | - | Assistant Secretary |
| 9. Lt. Cdr. M D R S Peiris | 10. | Mr. R S A Nandasena |
| 11. Captain J R Mendis | 12. | Mr. H A Jayalath |
| 13. Mr. A S S de Silva | 14. | Mr. R K Ranawaka |
| 15. Mr. R M Ratnayake | 16. | Gp. Capt. K W Kirinde |
| 17. Mr. J V Jayaraj | 18. | Major D A N Gnanapala |
| 19. Lt. K A Premalal | 20. | Brigadier R D A Jayasinghe |
| 21. Mr. J A Speering | 22. | Mr. H K S Sooriyaarachchi |
| 23. Major General W G M U R Perera | 24. | Colonel P L Thisera |
| 25. Lt. Col. Manthre Coswatte | 26. | Mrs. C M Mayadunne |
| 27. Major M A Jayaratne | 28. | Mr. T A Ruberu |
| 29. Major G W Ranatunga | 30. | Captain J S Bandara |
| 31. Major W G G Premaratne | 32. | Major P H Chiltus |
| 33. Mr. V Nayoor | 34. | Mr. K L S Fernando |
| 35. Mr. W G Perera | 36. | Mr. R M Somapala |
| 37. Major A K D S P Siriwardena | 38. | Captain A V Munasinghe |
| 39. Cdr. W M L Rohana | 40. | Mr. R Nimalasena |
| 41. Mr. S A Ariyaratne | 42. | Commodore S P F Wijeratne |
| 43. Gp. Capt. K G R Hemachandra | | |

EXCUSED :

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| 1. Captain Patrick Jayasinghe | - | President Honoris Causa |
| 2. Mr. P L T Perera | - | Assistant Secretary |
| 3. Major P K C S Kankanamge | - | Assistant Treasurer |
| 4. Cdr. R A Somapala | 5. | Lt. Col E M U Ekanayake |
| 6. Captain W J Siriwardena | 7. | Maj Gen M R U Bandarattillake |
| 8. Mr. D K Hemantha | 9. | Major H M S S K Godamunne |
| 10. Major General R A A A Perera | 11. | Mr. W D J Jothiyapala |
| 12. Captain H U Jayatissa | 13. | Major K S Jayaratne |
| 14. Mr. B D Samson | 15. | Mr. U G D S Premalal |
| 16. Mrs. R M S S K Ratnayake | 17. | Mr. W B Dabarera |
| 18. Mr. B A Somasiri | 19. | Captain P B Wickramasinghe |
| 20. Mr. P D H C A Gunawardena | | |

NOT PRESENT:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| 1. Lt. P Wijewickrama | 2. | Mr. A A S Perera |
| 3. Col. Faiz-UrRahman | 4. | Lt. W L Abayasiri |
| 5. Mr. Lucas Fernando | 6. | Mr. R Gamini |
| 7. Major H P Weerakkody | 8. | Mr. A Pathmasiri |
| 9. Mr. J S Hewagama | 10. | Captain N S Jayawardena |
| 11. Mr. R A Camaran | 12. | Mr. Kumara Boteju |
| 13. Mr. W A L Gunapala | 14. | Major General K S Fernando |
| 15. Col. P R S Jayasekera | 16. | Mrs. I L S Yapa |
| 17. Mr. W D Elmo Frank | 18. | Lt. Col. A D Subasinghe |
| 19. Mr. Thilak Ranjan | 20. | Cdr. M A N Chandrasiri |
| 21. Mr. A Dharmapala | | |

1. **Opening remark.**

Meeting commenced with a warm welcome from President, Brigadier K A Gnanaweera, USP. As all members had received copies of the minutes prior to the meeting, notice of the meeting was taken as read.

2. **Excuses.** Pl refer page 2.

3. **Vote of Condolence.**

Two minutes silence was observed in memory of the following members, who had passed away during the period under review and all Service Personnel, who sacrificed their lives in the defence of the motherland.

- a. Mr. HG Amaradasa - SLSR Assn
- b. Mr. PKGM Wickramasinghe – SLSR Assn
- c. Mr. KA Chandrasena – SLSR Assn

4. **Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 28th February 2019**

Minutes of meeting held on 28th February 2019 were adopted proposed by Captain J Sisira Bandara and seconded by Mr. J A Speering.

5. **Settlement of Poppy Sales**

President requested the Affiliated Associations who have not settled their Poppy Accounts to expedite settlements. Hony. Secretary General said that the Annual Audit cannot be completed until all monies receivable are settled.

Regretting the delay, Col. P L Thisera said that many poppies and Car Wreaths were given to several Institutes and other similar work places and awaiting their return.

Chairman, Poppy Committee, Major General E M M Ambanpola requested an estimated date of return.

It was pointed out by Capt. Sisira Bandara that this request to settle the poppy accounts soon was repeated at every Ex-Co Meeting and circulated in the monthly minutes held after the War Memorial Commemoration Ceremony held in November 2018 and it has not been responded up to date and said that it is sad to note the response from the Affiliated Associations.

6. **The 66th Annual Convention of SLESA General Council.**

President stated that the 66th Annual Convention of the General Council will be held on Sunday 28th April 2019 commencing at 1000 hrs at the “EAGLE LAKE SIDE BANQUET AND CONVENTION HALL” of Sri Lanka Air Force, at Attidiya, Dehiwala.

He thanked the Commander of the Air Force for releasing this Convention Hall at a discounted rate for the SLESA to conduct the 66th Annual Convention of the General Council He also thanked the Vice President Wing Commander K M S Wijenayaka for negotiating with the Air Force Authorities to release the Assembly Hall at a concessionary rate.

Invited by President, Wing Commander Wijenayaka said that on arrival, before the AGM, each member will be served with a pack of snacks and the welcome drink. Further he said that usage of foreign liquor would be more preferable than the local products and explained the general outlay for the day. He further explained the avenues taken by the Commander of the Air Force to release this convention hall at a discounted rate.

President said that transport is arranged to leave SLESA head quarters at 0730 hrs and return to Colombo leaving Ratmalana at 14.30 hrs. He preferred the participants to travel on their own and requested to be at the Venue in time.

7. Resolutions and Motions to be adopted at the 66th Annual Convention of the General Council.

The following four (04) amendments to the Rules to be adopted at the 66th Annual Convention of the General Council which will be held on 28th April 2019 was tabled and copies were circulated among the members present to study them and come prepared for discussion at the next Ex-Co meeting scheduled to be held on 11th April 2019.

- a. Eighth Schedule. SLESA Scholarship fund.
- b. Ninth Schedule SLESA Death Donation Fund.
- c. Rule 14, Election of Office Bearers,
- d. Rule 7, Discipline

However, Mr. K L S Fernando objected the submission of this resolution once again, under Rule 14, Election of Office Bearers appended below for easy reference as it was vehemently opposed by him and some members at the Ex-Co meeting held on 31st January 2019 and no decision was reached and is appended under clause 18 of the minutes of meeting held on 31st January 2019.

Proposed under Rule 14, Election of Office Bearers, - When electing Principal Office Bearers namely President, Hony. Secretary General and Hony. Treasurer of SLESA, only those members who have retired after the completion of their obligatory period or more shall be entitled for nomination/election to the posts of Principal Office Bearers.

The Principal Office Bearers shall perform their duties honorary and voluntary service to the Association and they are not entitled to any remunerations.

He further stated that this Association was formed by non pensioners as well and this is our Association for all Ex-Servicemen who left the Service honourably on completion of their period of engagement or retired from service honourably. If the Pensioners wants a separate identity, they should join the Armed Forces Pensioners Association. President suggested to discuss it further at the next meeting.

8. Nominations of Office Bearers.

President said that nominations were called for Principal Office Bearers of SLESA and to submit nominations as per SLESA Rules. He requested the Associations to forward their nominees before 1200 hrs on 8th April 2019 which is the closing time & date.

9. Matters arising from the minutes of meeting held on 28th February 2019.

9.1. 75th Anniversary of SLESA Commemoration. - President said that the appointed Committee has met on 21st February 2019 and said that SLESA has already progressed with some of the proposals and responsibilities to cover up some activities are being allocated to some Associations and said that the Christian Religious Ceremonies will be handled by Mr. J V Jeyarajah of the Air Force Association in consultation with the Christian Religious Dignitaries while the Hindu Religious Activities will be handled by Mr. V Naylor of the Pioneer Corps Association in consultation with the Hindu Religious Dignitaries. . He requested a Volunteer from the Muslim faith to handle Religious Activities of the Muslim faith. Newspaper Supplement and Electronic media Coverage to be handled by the Press & Media Committee.

President handed over the letter received from Central Bank regarding the minting of a Anniversary Coin to Major General Upul Perera to attend to it.

9.2. SLESA Members Welfare Loan Fund. President explained the present Financial Stability of this Loan Fund and the present position stands as follows.

Shares received to the value of	Rs.	1,426,000.00
Investments by SLESA funds,	Rs.	3,350,000.00
Loans granted to the value of	Rs.	14,430,000.00
Loans recovered as at 28 th Feb 19	Rs.	8,193,387.16
Interest receivable as at 28 th Feb 19	Rs.	1,824,558.89

9.3. Labor Tribunal, Captain N S Jayawardene, - The case was taken up for hearing at the Labour Tribunal on the 6th of February, and is now postponed to 9th May 2019.

9.4. Poppy sales collection from Matale Ex-Servicemen's Association. -As this matter is not settled yet, President said that a committee will be appointed to look in to these discrepancies.

Hony. Secretary General said that President, Matale Ex-Servicemen's Association will not be prevented from attending the forthcoming AGM & thereafter for EXCO meetings.

9.5. Re Furbishing of Veteran's Home at Katugastota. - Vice President and Chairman, Veteran's Home Committee, Rear Admiral Shermal Fernando said that he had discussions with the Naval Civil Engineers who are handling the project and as explained by them they should be able to complete the constructional work towards the end of April. He also thanked President, Kandy Ex-Servicemen's Association Brigadier Weerakoon and Brigadier Jayasinghe for expediting the supply of materials and also to the Procurement and Evaluation Committee for their quick response for approval of purchases.

Referring to activities at Veteran's Home, Bolagala, Rear Admiral Shermal Fernando said that the 24 inmates are cared well and for medical requirements they are referred to the respective medical institutions of the three Services.

9.6. Voting Rights to SLESA Employees. Proposed by Hony. Secretary General, House unanimously agreed to debar SLESA Employees from voting at Ex-Co and Annual Conventions of General Council. They are to request their particular Affiliated Associations to refrain in nominating them to the general Council as they are paid employees of SLESA.

Festival Advance to SLESA employees for the Sinhala & Hindu New Year 2019 were unanimously approved.

10. Tabling of Accounts for the month of February 2019.

Hony. Treasurer said that Audited statements of monthly accounts of all eight (08) Accounts for the month of February 2019 were circulated along with the monthly minutes of meeting held on 28th February 2019 and called for the adoption of each Account independently.

He also said that they were audited by the Audit Committee and said that any comments and observations are welcome.

10.1. SLESA Management Fund Current Account Number 350961. – Statement of Accounts for the month of February 2019. – Proposed by Capt. Sisira Bandara and seconded by Major P H Chiltus they were adopted.

10.2. SLESA Benevolent Trust Fund Current Account Number 350030, - 75412966. – Statement of Accounts for the month of February 2019 - Proposed by Mr. H.A.Jayalath and seconded by Capt. J. Sisira Bandara they were adopted.

10.3. SLESA Families Welfare Fund Current Account Number 78411514, - Statement of Accounts for the month of February 2019. - Proposed by Capt. J R Mendis and seconded by Mr. J A Speering they were adopted.

10.4. SLESA Welfare Facilities Development Fund Current Account Number 9410822. – Statement of Accounts for the month of February 2019. Proposed by Major M A Jayaratna and Seconded by Mr. H A Jayalath they were adopted.

10.5. RCEL Current Account Number 350996, Statement of Accounts for the month of February 2019. Proposed by Major P H Chiltus and seconded by Mr. R M Somapala they were adopted.

10.6. AFRD Current Account Number 0071943349 - 75413054, Statement of Accounts for the month of February 2019. Proposed by Major G W Ranathunga and seconded by Capt. J R Mendis, they were adopted.

10.7. SLESA Veteran's Home Current Account Number 76014229, - Statement of Accounts for the month of February 2019. Proposed by Capt. J R Mendis and seconded by Mr. R M Somapala they were adopted.

10.8. SLESA Members Welfare Loan Fund Current Number 0079164566, Statement of Accounts for the month of February 2019. Proposed by Mr. J A Speering and seconded by Major M A Jayaratna. they were adopted.

11. Approval of Grant Payments.

Hony. Treasurer then called for the adoption of the Medical, Spectacles, Hearing Aids, RCEL and Scholarship Grants. They were approved proposed by Mr. B A Somasiri and seconded by Mr. J A Speering.

11.1. Approval for payments. - Proposed by Capt. J Sisira Bandara and seconded by Mr. H A Jayalath house unanimously approved the following payments.

1. Renewal fees of Veteran's Home Three Wheeler	Rs.	1,250.00
2. Renewal of Insurance Premium of Veteran's Home Three Wheeler	Rs.	4,515.40
3. Toner for Photo copier at Veteran's Home	Rs.	5,000.00
4. Payment for 4 days to Care Taker for Hospitalised War Veteran, Mr. W H R Fernando.	Rs.	8,000.00
5. Installation of new Deep Freezer at Veteran's Home Kitchen.	Rs.	2,629.00
6. One bottle of Drinking Water to Veteran's Home.	Rs.	3,325.00
7. Electrical Accessories for Re-furbishing Katugastota House. (Appro TEC)	Rs.	71,905.00
8. Donation as requested by neighboring Church/Temple.	Rs.	4,000.00
9. Festival Advance to SLESA Staff to celebrate the Sinhala & Hindu New Year. 2019.		

11.2. Approval for proposed expenses. - Proposed by Major G W Ranathunga and seconded by Mr. J A Speering, House unanimously approved the following proposed payments

1. Advance payment for Air Force Banquet and Convention Hall	Rs.	500,000.00
2. Curtains for Re-furbished Ancestral Home	Rs.	105,000.00
3. Advance payment for Hardware requirements for Ancestral Home	Rs.	30,000.00
4. Printing SLESA Journal (Annual Report) Approval Procurement Comm.	Rs.	222,000.00
5. Bathware for building at Katugastota	Rs.	159,200.00
6. Additional Timber & paint for building at Katugastota. (Rs.110,000 +50,000/-)	Rs.	160,000.00
7. Salary for Caretaker at V Home, Katugastota approved at last Ex-Co	Rs.	10,000.00

12. **Reports of Sub-Committees.**

Hony. Secretary General said that the Sub Committees of Veteran's Home, Uva Province and Audit have sent their reports and no adverse comments. He thanked the Associations for sending their reports in time.

13. **Letters Received.**

1. From Engr Association appointing Mr. L D Gamini as Secretary on temporary basis as Mr. Lucas Fernando is sick
2. Request for a special submission by Mr. H K Sooriyaarachchi of Military Police.

14. **Submissions by Mr. H K Sooriyaarachchi**

The request from Mr. H K Sooriyaarachchi of Military Police Veterans' Association for special submissions were accepted and addressing the Assembly he thanked all concerned for acceding to his request. He said that the SLESA Comprises of 47 Affiliated Associations derived from the three Services for the common object to foster an esprit of comradeship and esprit-de-corps among its members.

We all walk in to this Assembly Hall once a month as "Friends", discuss our difficulties, Welfare matters for the Benevolence of the General Membership, Financial Assistance and many other requirements for the benefit of each and every member and their families, occasionally if the need arises arguing on the

subject and walk out as friends Greeting each other. We meet again as friends with the lapse of another month for the same purpose, greet each other and leave as friends after discussing beneficial matters.

However, with the intention of promoting new avenues for new developments and the betterment of SLESA, three (03) new Principal Office Bearers were elected at the 65th Annual Convention of the General Council, but they could not explore their intentions due to prevailing inconsistency and ambiguities existed among EXCO members from the date of their assumption of Office. This unfortunate situation is continuing with no ending.

What is important is unity, harmony and comradeship among all fractions and Mr. Sooriyaarachchi is proposing to appoint an independent Committee headed by an Ombudsman to inquire in to these allegations, Administrative shortfalls, discrepancy if any and irregularities. Promoting peace and harmony among all participants as practiced for the last 65 years was his ambition. He explained that we as well trained disciplined Ex-Servicemen should maintain that reputation and maintain law and order as learnt while in Service. He concluded his address anticipating a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous future with the dawn of the 75th Anniversary and 66th year of SLESA .

Appreciating this timely suitable, generous speech, Lt. Col Manthree Coswatta proposed the rotation of Office of Principal Office Bearers among the three Services and this was substantiated by Major G W Ranthunga and Mr. T A Ruberu.

In response to this, Mr. K L S Fernando of the Air Force Signals Association quoted the two (02) positions of Principal Office Bearers of Presidency for two years held by the former Commander of the Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Harry Goonethilleke and Treasurer for Six years held by Mr. S S Gunawardene for the last 65 years, the Air Force Association had no opportunity to become a Principal Office Bearer and seconded the proposal submitted by Lt. Col Manthree Coswatta. He also said that for 65 years of existence of SLESA, the Presidency has been held only for two years which does not appear to be justifiable. He thanked Lt. Col. Manthree Coswatta for proposing this rotation and Major G W Ranathunga and Mr. T A Ruberu for their comments in favor of this proposal. Reminding the contributions and donations offered in kind and cash, by the serving members of the Sri Lanka Air Force for the development of SLESA, Mr. K L S Fernando said that few months back, the Air Force Association submitted a memorandum proposing this rotation and wanted to know the present position.

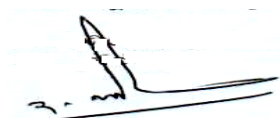
President SLESA said that this has been referred to the Rules Committee and this Committee is evaluating the existing Rules of SLESA with amendments.

15. Photographs for the SLESA 75th Anniversary Journal.

All Ex-Co members were requested to attend the Ex-Co meeting scheduled to be held on 11th April 2019, attired in lounge with medals and decorations to be photographed before the commencement of the Ex-Co meeting These photographs will be included in the 66th Annual Convention of SLESA Journal to coincide with the SLESA 75th Anniversary Journal. Attendance of all Ex-Co members before 1430hrs on 11th April 2019 will be greatly appreciated.

16. There being no other business, meeting terminated at approximately 1730 hrs.

Next meeting to be held on 11th April 2019 at 1530hrs after photographing of Ex-Co, Office Bearers and Sub Committees to be included in the Annual Report which coincides with the SLESA 75th Anniversary Journal.



Ajith Siyambalapitiya
Lt. Colonel (Retd)
Honorary Secretary General - Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen's Association