NOTICE OF THE SRI LANKA EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen’s Association will be held at 1600 hrs on Wednesday 23rd September 2015 at the SLESI “Danthurai Hall”, No. 29, Bristol Street, Colombo 01. You are kindly requested to attend.

Please forward any subject to be discussed in writing on or before 22nd September 2015 to enable me to prepare a brief for the meeting.

If a Committee member wishes to be excused due to any reason, it will be appreciated if you could make arrangements to keep me informed.

Rear Admiral S R Samaratunga RSP VSV USP
Hony. Secretary General – SLESA

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 29th August 2015
5. Matters arising out of the minutes
6. Tabling of Accounts August 2015.
7. Reports of Committees
8. AFRD and Poppy Campaign
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
Presidents/ Hony. Secretaries of Affiliated Associations / Corporate Bodies of SLESA

DS/-
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE SRI LANKA EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION HELD ON SATURDAY 29th AUGUST 2015 AT 0930 HRS AT THE SLESI “DANTHURAI HALL” NO.29, BRISTOL STREET, COLOMBO 01.

Meeting was chaired by Brigadier K A Gnanaweera, President

**PRESENT**

1. Brigadier K A Gnanaweera - President
2. Captain Patrick Jayasinghe - Immediate Past President
3. Lt. Col. D S C Ganegoda - Vice President
4. Commander T D Weerasinghe - Vice President
5. Mr. J V Jayaraj - Vice President
6. Rear Admiral S R Samaratunga - Hony. Secretary General
8. Mr. C M Mayadeen - Assistant Secretary
9. Lt. Cdr. H C L Caldera - Assistant Secretary
10. Mr. S S Gunawardena - Assistant Secretary
11. Captain T M H Madugalla - Assistant Secretary
12. Commodore G E S de Silva
14. Mr. P L T Perera
15. Commodore G E S de Silva
16. Maj. Gen. (Dr.) K D P Perera
17. Mr. J A Speering
18. Major General (Dr.) K D P Perera
19. Mr. P D H C A Goonewardena
20. Mr. G H Mihindukulasooriya
21. Mr. W A S Perera
22. Mr. G E S de Silva
23. Mr. D L Wickramaratne
24. Mr. A W W Amarananda
25. Mr. T D Gunasena
26. Mr. H N Halangoda
27. Mr. J V Jayaratne
28. Mr. M D L Wickramaratne
29. Mr. K L Bandusena
30. Brigadier V K B Weerakoon
31. Mr. H A Swarnatillake
32. Mr. J A Speering
33. Major W C Henry
34. Captain Jayatissa
35. Major General W G M U R Perera
37. Lt. Col. Mantri Coswatte
38. Mr. C J de Silva
39. Major A Jayaratne
40. Capt. K S K Perera
41. Major G W Ranatunga
42. H G P Jayasekera
43. Mr. Quintus Andradi
44. Major K S Jayaratna
45. Major P H Chilus
46. Mr. V Nayoor
47. Mr. U G D S Premalal
48. Mr. K L S Fernando
49. Mr. H Q de Silva
50. Mr. B D S Hemachandra
51. Captain U J K Panditha
52. Captain A V Munasinghe
53. Mr. D A C S De S A Gunaratne
54. Mr. B A Somasiri
55. Lt. Cdr. D M Muthubanda
56. Wing Cmdr K M S Wijenayake
57. Mr. L N Wijesuriya
58. Captain J S Bandara
59. Mr. T M C B Tennakoon
60. Mr. D M Chandraratne
61. Commander K P S P Kodippili - Sri Lanka Navy Representative

**EXCUSED**

1. Brigadier Ranjan de Silva
2. Brigadier G V Elapatha
3. Major General T Paranagama
4. Colonel R V Koamwinna
5. Major A Rodrigo
6. Major General M D S Chandrapala
7. Brigadier H A N T Perera
8. Colonel A A Perera
9. Lt. Colonel E M U Ekanayake
10. Captain W J Siriwardena
11. Brigadier M R U Bandaratillake
12. Mr. D K Hemantha
13. Captain D A Wijegunawardena
14. Mr. Ranjith Perera
15. Major D A N Gnanapala
16. Mrs. L Mahanama
17. Major S Kankanamge
18. Lt. Col. A D Subasinghe
19. Mr. B D Samson
20. Mrs. K M G Kumari Wickramasinghe
21. Mr. A G V Pathiranar
22. Rear Admiral D S Molligoda
23. Mr. J M Karunatillake

**NOT PRESENT**

1. Mrs. B G Kularatne
2. Mr. H Kandage
3. Mrs. A D Geetha Chandani
4. Major General H C P Gunatillake RSP USP - Sri Lanka Army Representative
Prior to the commencement of the Ex-Co meeting the members and the invitees were hosted for the traditional partaking of “Kiribath and Tea”, at the SLESA Secretariat as a part of the commemorative celebrations of the first ever “SLESA Day” held in memory of the inauguration of SLESA 71 years ago on 29th August 1944.

“SLESA Day” commemorative event commenced at 0900 hrs. on 29th Aug 2015, with a brief welcome address by President SLESA, Brigadier K A Gnanaweera USP and thereafter two minutes silence was observed to remember and honour all Ex-Servicemen who lost their lives since the establishment of the Association in 1944 and all the others who lost their lives whilst in service during the world wars and during other internal conflicts.

Thereafter religious ceremonies were conducted by Buddhist, Hindu, Islam and Christian religious dignitaries to invoke blessings on SLESA and its membership and to bestow merits to those members who departed us.

Introducing the next event of the day President, SLESA requested Brigadier J P A Jayawardana to introduce Major General (Dr.) C Thurairajah to the house and invite him to conduct lecture with presentation on “Exercise as Medicine for ageing Population”

After a brief introduction by Brig Jayawardana, Maj General Thurairajah made a very informative lecture/presentation which was appreciated by everybody present. On completion of the presentation and the question and answer session, President SLESA presented him a token of appreciation and thanked Major General (Dr.) Thurairajah for devoting his precious time to educate the SLESA membership who are all above 40 years of age.

At the conclusion of this event, addressing the assembly on the new project “Life after Retirement” Brigadier J P A Jayawardene invited the members to get them registered in this project for better prospects. He also informed the members that two more lectures on diabetics and eye sight will be held n the following day i.e. Coming Sunday at the Auditorium in Colpetty closer to HSBC building and he invited them to participate.

Thereafter the Ex-Co Meeting formally commenced with a warm welcome from President SLESA, Brigadier K A Gnanaweera USP and he invited all invitees to the SLESA Day Celebrations also to be present for the meeting to watch the proceedings.

1. Notice of the Meeting was taken as read
2. Excuses. - Appended in page 2.
3. Vote of Condolence was presented in memory of the following who passed away recently.

   Captain Ritchie Bandara SL Army and Mr. G H Jayaweera, SL Air Force.

   President read an appreciation on the demise of Captain Ritchie Bandara who served as Treasurer and, Secretary General of SLESA and as the Manager of SLESI.

   Mr. T M C B Tennakoon and Mr. H G P Jayasekara too read an appreciation commenting the appreciable work done by late Capt. Ritche Bandara CLI Association.

   President, Sri Lanka Ex-Air Force Association Mr. Mihindukulasooriya read an appreciation on late Mr. G H Jayaweera who served in the Air Force and after obtaining necessary academic qualifications to enter the Civil Service left the Air Force to accept the appointment as an Assistant Government Agent.

4. **Commemorative Address by President SLESA**

   Addressing all participants present President SLESA stated the Association inaugurated on 29th August 1944 is commemorating its 71 Anniversary with the declaration of this day as “SLESA Day”. He further said that we are commemorating this significant day on a poya day with the blessings of the four religious dignitaries of four faiths. Thanking all members for their
participation on this important day from very early morning. President said this commemorative ceremony conducted for the 1st time in SLESA history is going to be held as an annual event with the view of invoking blessings to the whole membership and their families and also remembering the founder members and value their services rendered for the development of the Association.

With the help of multimedia presentation he announced the names of the Past Presidents, Hony. Secretaries/ Secretary Generals and Hony. Treasurers who served the Association from inception up to date and said that Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen’s Association has reached this standard today due to the indefatigable efforts put in with devotion and dedication by them. He further explained some of the special contributions made by former Presidents and Secretaries. He also announced the former Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers living today and excused those who could not attend due to their age and health conditions and wished them good health and happiness. President also sincerely appreciated the participation of Major General, Chandra Abayaratna at this ceremony who was one of his senior commanders in the Corps of Signals.

**Courtesy call on the Commander of the Navy:** President announced that he along with Hony. Secretary General, Hony Treasurer, Vice Presidents Lt. Col. D S C Ganegoda and Commander T D Weerasinghe paid a courtesy call to the Commander of the Navy on 23 August 2015. They had an informal discussion on welfare of Ex-Servicemen. President said that they were well received by the Commander and the discussion was fruitful. They have discussed the proposed refurbishment plan to Veteran’s Home and the Commander has agreed to expedite the process. Commander has further agreed to finance the Ex-Servicemen’s Association by way of collecting voluntary contributions from Serving Personnel and also he has agreed to provide the services of an IT Person from SLN. The Commander has said that he will try to explore the possibilities of accommodating Ex-Navy personal to the Naval Insurance Scheme.

At conclusion of the discussion, the Commander presented a plaque to President SLESA as a gesture of good will and remembrance.

**Relaunching of SLESA Web site:** President informed the membership that SLESA web site was started some time back with the help of the Naval HQ and after some time it became non-operational due to lack of IT personnel.

He said that the was able to get the web site back to normal with the help of 2 members of Signals Association who voluntarily redesigned it and made it ready for relaunching today.

He thanked Mr. Nilantha Piyasiri and Mr Kapila Bandaranayaka who are running their own computer company after their retirement from the Sri Lanka Army Signals Corps for their untiring efforts to build up this Web Site and invited Mr. Kapila Bandaranayaka to explain the this website. President thanked Mr. Hearth of the SLESA Secretariat too for all assistance extended and initiative taken in this regard.

Addressing the Assembly, Mr. Bandaranayaka explained the features of the website and how it should be activated and said that the access to website is through its address “www.slesa.lk”. He further said that the web site could be further developed and more and more features could be added as time progress.

Thanking Mr. Bandaranayaka, President said they are also visiting IT lecturers at the Kotalawala Defence University

The new website is re-launched on this significant day of the 71st Anniversary of SLESA on 29th August 2015, jointly by President SLESA Brigadier, K A Gnanaweera and Immediate Past President, Captain Patrick Jayasinghe.

**Proposed Loan Scheme:** President invited Hony. Secretary General to introduce the proposed welfare measures to the members.
Hony. Secretary General said that as adopted by unanimous decision at the last 62nd Annual Convention of the General Council of SLESA, we are progressing on this proposed Welfare Loan Scheme in liaison with the Sanasa Bank Officials. He also reminded the house that an Executive of Sanasa Bank visited us on his invitation and briefed the membership on SANASA progress. In his address he explained how we can afford facilities to membership which will be beneficial to SLESA who is the lender and Member who is the Borrower.

To facilitate the implementation of this welfare loan scheme, Hony. Secretary General said that he is circulating the draft copies of the Constitution and the Administrative Regulations to the members for them to make suitable suggestions if any and return it with amendments/changes made in the same paper. He requested the members to return them with or without comments.

Hony. Secretary General presented the draft copies of the Constitution and the Administrative Regulations to President, Immediate Past President and Trustees of SLESA and requested the members to collect their copies placed at the counter at the exit and return with or without comments indicating their name on the 1st page as soon as possible.

He further stressed that, guided by Sanasa Bank Rules, this scheme will be extended and our vision should be to establish financial stability first, gain confidence from members and venture into banking sector and finally establishing a SLESA Bank.

5. President informed that the minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting were circulated among the members and requested for adoption of minutes

At this stage members indicated the following comments.

a. Item 4.c, 1st line in third paragraph of this minutes - Commodore Edward de Silva stated that his name has been sighted as the “Financial Advisor” where as he is no more the “Financial Advisor” and requested to delete same. President agreed.

b. Commodore Edward de Silva further said Referring to his remarks at the last meeting on minutes of Ex-Co meeting held on 25th June 2015, which is not minuted, he re-iterated that his name is not appended in the excused list as he proceeded to the United Kingdom excusing himself from the Ex-Co meetings.

c. Referring to paragraph 8 on page 5 in item no. 5.5. Of these minutes, Commodore Edward de Silva said that he did not mention about a short video film and only what he said was to obtain the assistance of Grants Advertisers for advertising purposes of the Poppy campaign. President confirmed the statement of Commodore Edward de Silva.

d. The Assistant Secretary, Mr. C M Mayadeen who is also part and parcel to the minutes in recording them pointed out that the name Major General (Dr.) Dudley Perera is not reflected in the attendance list of minutes of meeting held on 30th July 2015.

In response to these queries, President informed the house that any lapses or errors as indicated by the members will be checked and corrected accordingly in the relevant minutes. He thanked the members for pointing out the errors and omissions

6. Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 30th July 2015

President called for the adoption of minutes of meeting held on 30th July 2015 and the minutes were adopted proposed by Mr. T M C B Tennakoon and seconded by Mr. J A Speering subject to the corrections / amendments proposed.

7. Matters arising from the minutes of the Ex-Co Meeting held on 30th July 2015

7.1. Re-Furbishing Veterans Home, Bolagala - Hony. Secretary General said that the Army Civil Engineers have already commenced work starting from the dormitory and
said that the construction should be based on our requirements as per the plans drawn and regular supervision is done by the team appointed by President. He further said that the Civil Engineers from the Sri Lanka Navy and Air Force will join soon and the Sri Lanka Navy will do the landscaping.


President invited the Chairman, Poppy Committee, Major General Upul Perera to brief the house on the present developments.

Major General Upul Perera said that the Armed Forces Remembrance Day Commemorations will be held on Sunday 8th November, which is the 2nd Sunday of November and closest to Nov 11th which is the official Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph in Victoria Park. The expenditure of 1.6 million incurred by us to clear the poppies has to be recovered from the sales and each poppy cost us Rs. 1.50.

In addition to the sale of Poppies and Car Wreaths, stickers are available for sale on no return basis as they cannot be used in another year. T Shirts and caps are available to be sold at Rs. 550/- and 275/- respectively. To create public awareness on Poppy Day and promote sales, he has arranged a “poppy walk” to be held on Saturday 19th September covering Colombo Fort City limits and invited all Affiliated Associations to participate with a minimum of 25 members from each Association.

He also said that he is making arrangements to conduct this public awareness poppy walk in other main cities like Anuradhapura, Kandy and Matara associated with the three Service Bands and few vintage cars to make the event more attractive and colorful.

Chairman, further said that he has already informed about the poppy campaign to all Government Agents and other local authorities and also to the Inspector General of Police to create an awareness among local Police.

Referring to paragraph 3 on page 5 in item no 5.5. of the minutes of meeting held on 30th July 2015, Immediate Past President, Captain Patrick Jayasinghe pointed out that there has been occasions, after pinning the first poppy on our Patron, His Excellency the President, Poppies were pinned on the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and other Ministers and that we could continue the same. However pinning of Poppies to dignitaries may not be possible by the centre alone. As an example traditionally the Poppy was pinned on The Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy by President, Sri Lanka Naval Association and Poppy walks were also conducted in the past in Anuradhapura, Nuwara Eliya and Kandy etc.

The Nuwara Eliya walk conducted sometime back was headed by General Hamilton Wanasinghe and other Office Bearers. Similar arrangement this year will create a good awareness.

7.3. Preparation of Cenotaph Area for Armed Forces Remembrance Day Celebrations - Hony. Secretary General said that the Sri Lanka Navy is doing the Landscaping/ cleaning of the area and they have already planted flower plants which will bloom towards the day of celebrations.

7.4. SLESA History - Thanking President SLESA and Commander Somasiri Devendra for assisting him in numerous ways to complete the 2nd edition of SLESA History, the originator of this project, Immediate Past President, Captain Patrick Jayasinghe presented the draft Volume to President SLESA. He also said that as per the available historical records the oldest recorded event so far found was SLESA representing Ceylon at the British Empire Service Day in the year 1927.

8. Tabling of Accounts for the Month of July 2015

Hony. Treasurer announced that un-audited Statement of Accounts of all 06 Accounts for the month of July 2015 were circulated along with the minutes of monthly meeting held on 30th July 2015, and called for adoption of each Account separately.
He also said that they were subsequently audited by the Audit Committee and scrutinized by the Finance and Planning Sub-Committee and said that any comments and observations are welcome.

8.1. SLESA Current Account No.350961- Statement of accounts for the month of July 2015- Proposed by Mr. W D J Jothiyapala and seconded by Mr. B A Somasiri, this was adopted.

8.2. Benevolent Trust Fund Current Account No. 350030 – Statement of accounts for the month of July 2015 – Proposed by Mr. T M C B Tennakoon and seconded by Major M A Jayaratna, this was adopted.

8.3 Welfare Facilities Development Fund, Current Account No. 9410822 – Statement of accounts for the month of July 2015 – Proposed by Mr. H.Q.de Silva and seconded by Captain Sisira Bandara, this was adopted.

8.4. RCEL Current Account No. 350996. – Statement of accounts for the month of July 2015 – Proposed by Mr. Jayantha Premedasa and seconded by Mr. W D J Jothiyapala, this was adopted.

8.5. AFRD Current Account No. 01-3019209-01 – Statement of Accounts for the month of July 2015- Proposed by Mr. P D H C A Goonewardene and seconded by Mr. T M C B Tennakoon, this was adopted.


9. Approval of Payments

9.a. Medical, Spectacles, Hearing Aids, RCEL and Scholarship Grants were approved proposed by Mr. T M C B Tennakoon and seconded by Mr. J A Speering.

10. Reports of Sub Committees.

Hony. Secretary General said that all Sub Committees have sent their reports and no adverse comments. He thanked the following Sub Committees for submitting their reports in time and recommendations are approved. Veteran’s Home, Audit, Uva and Finance, Budgeting & Planning.

11. Donations to Veteran’s Home.

11.1. Thanking all Donors for their generosity, Hony. Secretary General thanked the Chairman and members of the Veteran’s Home Committee for their efforts to raise funds with income exceeding expenditure. He thanked the following Donors for their generous gesture.

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<th>Donor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>15th Feb 2015</td>
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<td>Rs. 7,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th May 2015</td>
<td>1 SLAWC</td>
<td>Rs. 7,500.00</td>
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<td>29th May 2015</td>
<td>5 (V) SLAWC</td>
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<td>Mr. Gomes</td>
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13th July 2015  7 (V) ESR  Rs. 7,500.00
15th July 2015  5 FD SLE  Rs. 7,500.00
18th July 2015  RHQ CR  Rs. 7,500.00
19th July 2015  5 VIR  Rs. 7,500.00
20th July 2015  RHQ MIC  Rs. 7,500.00
23rd July 2015  RHQ SLAOC  Rs. 7,500.00
25th July 2015  SL Naval Association  Rs. 14,107.00
27th July 2015  RHQ SLAGSC  Rs. 7,500.00
30th July 2015  RHQ SLNG  Rs. 7,500.00
31st July 2015  RHQ SLAPC  Rs. 7,500.00

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Total  Rs. 183,172.00

Donation of provisions

SL Air Force  Rs. 9,250.00
SLNS Gemunu  Rs. 6,925.00
SLNS Mahasen  Rs. 15,260.04
SLNS Lanka  Rs. 11,347.55
SLNS Rangala  Rs. 27,572.61
SLNS Thakishila  Rs. 11,386.10
Van Rees Company Tea  Rs. 1,909.20

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Total  Rs. 83,650.50

He also thanked the three Service Commanders for their regular monthly donations to the Veteran's Home.

12. Any Other Business

a. Vote of Thanks - 71st Anniversary and SLESA Day Celebrations - President invited Hony. Secretary General, Rear Admiral S R Samaratunga to propose the Vote of Thanks.

b. Thanking President SLESA for entrusting him this responsibility to propose the vote of thanks, he thanked all Members, Affiliated Associations and other invitees who participated to celebrate the 71st Anniversary and SLESA day. He thanked the President for his thoughts and vision displayed in introducing the "SLESA DAY" and making simple ceremony to commemorate the occasion for the first time in the history.

Hony. Secretary General appreciated the participation of the four Religious Dignitaries of the four faiths and their valuable sermons and blessings. He thanked the sponsors for accompanying the dignitaries to the venue and back. Then he thanked Major General, (Dr.) C Thurairajah and his team for the valuable lecture and presentation. He also thanked Brigadier J P A Jayawardana for facilitating this presentation and the commitment he is taking to publish SLESA weekly news in the Daily News and Dinamina Papers.

Referring to SLESA website he thanked Mr. Nilantha Piyasiri and Kapila Bandaranayaka of the Sri Lanka Army Signals Corps and Mr. Herath of the SLESA Secretariat for their enthusiastic efforts to make this event a success.

Thanking the Sri Lanka Army Signals Corps for providing the Public Address System along with other accessories for us to conduct this ceremony successfully, Hony. Secretary General sincerely appreciated the services rendered by the Sri Lanka Army Signals Personnel who were in attendance to operate and control the sound system.

He thanks the Chairman and Board of Trustees, the Manager and the Staff of SLESI for providing the two Auditoriums with all facilities to conduct this SLESA Day, Hony. Secretary General finally thanked the staff of the SLESA for their commitments and untiring work for long hours to make the occasion a success.
c. Appreciation - President thanked Hony. Secretary General for the Vote of Thanks and the Naval Representative, Staff Officer Administration, Naval Head Quarters, Commander K P S P Kodippili for his participation at the SLESA Day celebrations.

Inviting all participants to lunch President declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 1330 hrs and the National Anthem was played as traditionally done in concluding an event of this nature.

Rear Admiral S R Samaratunga RSP VSV USP
Hony. Secretary General
Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen’s Association