

American Legion 5th District, Department of Texas Fall Convention Meeting November 17th, 2018 Held at Post 424

District Commander Ronald Jones opened the meeting in regular order with the posting of the Colors and placing of the POW/MIA flag at 1:38. Chaplain Nancy Beckham gave the opening prayer. Commander Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion.

Roll call of Officers:

1. District Commander Ron Jones	Present	16. Boys State Chair	Vacant
2. 1st Vice Commander Alan Caesar	Present	17. Const&By-Laws	Vacant
3. Adjutant Joe Johnson	Present	18. Children & Youth Chairman	Vacant
4. Finance Officer Pat Flores	Present	19. JROTC Chairman WS Turner	Present
5. Chaplain Nancy Beckham	Present	20. Junior Shooting Chairman	Vacant
6. Asst. Chaplain	Vacant	21. Legislative Zora McPherson	Present
7. Historian Bill Freauff	Present	22. Membership Chair Alan Caesar	Present
8. Judge Advocate	Vacant	23. National Security Chairman	Vacant
9. Service Officer	Vacant	24. Oratorical Chair Alton Brown	Absent
10. Sergeant-at-Arms	Vacant	25. Public Relations Chairman	Vacant
11. Hub Master Larry Taylor	Absent	26. SAL Advisor	Vacant
12. ALR Advisor Bernard Aderholt	Absent	27. School Awards Chairman	Vacant
13. Americanism Chair Dennis Snow	Excused	28. VA&R Chairman	Vacant
14. Baseball Chairman	Vacant		
15. Boy Scout Chairman	Vacant		

Roll call by Post:

Post 23 – Present	Post 275 – Present	Post 511 – Present
Post 53 – Absent	Post 292 – Present	Post 581 – Absent
Post 81 – Present	Post 368 – Absent	Post 597 – Present
Post 111 – Present	Post 424 – Present	Post 656 – Absent
Post 124 – Absent	Post 453 – Present	Post 802 – Present
Post 184 – Absent	Post 504 – Present	Post 855 – Absent
Post 218 – Absent	Post 507 – Present	

A Quorum was established

Comment: For information Post 855 completed 2nd reading to close and Post 124 has 8 members so almost at goal

Guests in attendance:

Commander Roger M Folmar 4th Div. 2014-2015

Resolution of Endorsement for State Vice Commander for 2019-2020. Believe in team work, putting others before him and The American Legion. Discussed need to focus on retention of members. Willing to come to any post and give support for any cause.

Commander Bobby Baker 1st Div. Commander 2017-2018

Resolution of Endorsement for State Vice Commander for 2019-2020.

Focused on Team work, We must move into the 21st century and we must support vets which is one of the pillars of the American Legion.

Jeff Perkins Past 1st Division and 5th District Commander

Read Resolution of Endorsement for State Commander 2019-2020. Focused on increasing the number of service officers in Texas as we do not have enough support for 1.7 million vets, it is currently taking 3-4 weeks to return calls. Jeff will push for a minimum of 2 more svc officers to start.

Commanders Corner: We had a very successful and informative training session this morning by Jeff Perkins based around Post Constitution and By-Laws.

Motion made to wave the reading of previous meeting minutes by Jeff Perkins 2nd by WS Turner
No discussion – Motion approved

Pat Flores reviewed the finance report dtd 9/1/18 through 11/16/2018:

Motion made to approve by Jeff Perkins 2nd by Kennard Bowen. Discussion was had about the importance of fundraising for the State convention. We made approx. \$10,000 the last time we hosted the convention. Motion approved

Motion made by Pat Flores to pay up to \$500.00 to Post 424 Auxiliary as reimbursement for supplies for this convention. 2nd by Jeff Perkins Motion approved

Committee Reports

Membership – Alan Caesar

Currently we have not hit our goal for the District. We have 1412 members 53% of goal.

Department is holding Adjutant training in Sulphur Springs to use the new online membership renewal process. Alan reported each post current membership standing. We have tools available online – Membership retention plan and continue working 345 members.

Awards handed out at the Department convention were presented to the post:

Post receiving awards for 90% membership retention or higher 2018 Post 597, 511, 802, 292

Post receiving Post Recruiting award 2018 Post 511, 802, 292

Post 802 received an award for Recruitment year 2016

Post 504 received an award for 100% membership for year 2015

Post 802 received an award for Recruitment year 2016

Post receiving an award for 100% membership 2018 Post 802, 292

Post 292 received Certificate of Recognition and Thanks from National Commander for 100% membership.

Commander Jones handed out State Commander Challenge coin for obtaining 100% membership to Post 802 from past Dept Commander John Hince

Americanism Chair – Dennis Snow

He was here but had to leave as his wife is just out of the hospital.

Boys State – Current chairman Bob Kaminski passed away November 11th. WS Turner (Post 292) volunteered to take over the position with assistance from Ken Bowen (Post 511)

Constitution & By-Laws – Gary Smith resigned so looking for a replacement. Jeff Perkins held training this morning. Only one Post has an outdated Constitution.

JrROTC - WS Turner –Went to Carter H.S. and So. Oak Cliff JrROTC and discussed Boys State.

Oratorical – Alton Brown – Commander Jones stated District Oratorical will be held January 19th probably at Post 53.

S.A.L. Advisor - Dennis Snow appointed as Adjutant for S.A.L. and will take Advisor role that was vacated due to previous person moving out of state.

ALR – Bernard Aderholt – none

Comment by Commander Jones: Inactive Advisors or committee chairs that we need Baseball, Scouting, Community Service and Children and Youth. If interested in helping, please let us know.

Baseball – none

Scouting - none

Community Service – Post 292 handed out gifts on veteran’s day to vets at an elderly home. Post 802 held bingo in August at the Veterans Resource Center. Also joined forces with NCNW and will be feeding the homeless at a church on Hampton St. Will also hold Socks for Vets function Dec. 8th from 2-4 at the senior center and follow up with a dinner at the post for family and friends. Posts 504 and 507 with VFW 8785 and Amvets 23 held a joint service at Mesquite square on veteran’s day.

Children & Youth – Post 802 adopted a project to discuss 9/11 with children and will hold a luncheon. Post 275 is sponsoring young marine cadet training. This program includes obstacle course, exercise, etc. and in turn they assist with community service by cleaning up around the post.

Junior Shooting – none

Legislative – Zora McPherson

Discussed a facebook page – Veterans Uncomplicated news feed – this is a very informative site that is veterans specific.

National Security –

Commander Jones asked how many Commanders have handed out the documents he sent out via email. This is the easiest program to complete. Print out the form drop, it off with the Police Chief or Fire Chief and they can fill it out or forward to their PR person and return it to you. This then gets submitted to District before our spring convention, it is then forwarded to Department.

Public Relations –

School Awards -

Sick call – Bob Kaminski passed, and we held a moment of silence in his honor.

Service Officer –

Unfinished Business - none

New Business –

We have open District Officer positions: JAG, Service Officer and Sgt at Arms. These positions must have completed AELI training.

Department Convention in 2019, we have people working on it now. Some of the things we have completed is kickback from rooms. We need help with man power, vendors, greeters, swag bags, entertainment. We need approx. 6 - 10 thousand dollars for commander and president dinners. \$660.00 given to finance office from a raffle the auxiliary is holding and will be awarded at the convention.

Renewal of District website hosting will cost \$359.64 for 3 years. Motion by Jeff Perkins and 2nd by Bill Freauff. Motion passed

Need ideas how to raise money – If you have any ideas let us know.

Question asked about corporate donations. Comment was made they typically will not donate to 501(c)19. Jeff Perkins mentioned Post 597 has acquired a 501(c)3. Joe Johnson volunteered to manage donations thru American Legion Carrollton account. A committee may be formed.

Good of the Legion:

Pat Flores mention AAFES is now allowing all honorably discharged veterans to shop online.

Website is shopmyexchange.com/veterans

Motion made to endorse Jeff Perkins for State Commander by Kennard Bowen and 2nd by WS Turner – Motion approved

Read Resolution of Endorsement for Alan Caesar for 5th District Commander 2019-2020.

More members can still run for office.

Jan 19th District Oratorical

Jan 24-27 Midwinter Conference Austin

Feb 2 Division Oratorical Wichita Falls

Feb 18th or 25th Department Oratorical held in Frisco

Bill Freauff mentioned the history books presented and the last state convention was available for review. Legion history book took 1st place.

Reminder to thank Post 424 for hospitality hosting the District Convention.

Closing prayer and meeting adjourned at 3:13pm