

American Legion 5th District, Department of Texas District Meeting February 23rd, 2019 Held at Post 597

District Commander Ronald Jones opened the meeting in regular order with the posting of the Colors and placing of the POW/MIA flag at 2:10 pm. 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 WS Turner	Present
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	Excused
10. Sergeant-at-Arms	Vacant	25. Public Relations Chairman	Vacant
11. Hub Master Larry Taylor	Absent	26. SAL Advisor Dennis Snow	Excused
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 – Absent	Post 275 – Present	Post 511 – Absent
Post 53 – Absent	Post 292 – Present	Post 581 – Absent
Post 81 – Absent	Post 368 – Absent	Post 597 – Present
Post 111 – Absent	Post 424 – Present	Post 656 – Absent
Post 124 – Absent	Post 453 – Present	Post 802 – Present
Post 184 – Absent	Post 504 – Absent	Post 855 – closed
Post 218 – Absent	Post 507 – Present	

A Quorum was established

Guests in attendance:

Bobby Baker 1st Div. Commander 2017-2018 – Candidate for Dept Vice Commander

Andy Lowen 1st District Commander, Div ALR, Candidate for Div Commander

Motion made to wave the reading of previous meeting minutes by Angela Herndon 2nd by WS Turner

No discussion – Motion approved

Pat Flores reviewed the finance report dtd Nov 17th thru Feb. 23rd, 2019 :

Motion made to approve by Bill Freauff 2nd by Walt Cunningham.

Discussion: ALA needs to give us \$500.00 for their portion towards Dept convention. We will have a lot of expenses for Convention. We are currently selling Ads and will be holding a meeting to finalize the details within the week. Motion approved

Robin McPeters ALA Convention Chair for the State Convention reviewed plans for the State Convention. We need help unloading and loading equipment for set up. Also need any donations for raffles, etc. Will be holding a casino night and possibly bingo. Ads for programs and pricing will be available later in the week and will be forwarded to all post commanders.

Committee Reports

Membership – Alan Caesar

Currently at 77.73% All post should be using the 345 list by zip code.

Reviewed the current standings by Post. We need 600 members to meet our quota.

Renewals and transfers save a lot of time.

Americanism Chair – Dennis Snow –

Cmdr Jones read activities by the numbers for 2018

American Legion Baseball 54,788 players forming 3,486 teams

Junior shooting 1352 competitors

Boys State 18,241 participants in 50 states

Scouting 4,439 youth recognized by the American Legion

Youth Cadet Law Enforcement 21 departments totaling 1254 youth

Oratorical 1125 contest totaling 10,505 youth

National Youth 2,865 youth involved in youth program events

Youth Education \$1,300,804 raised thru donations 254 students awarded \$1,200,936 in scholarships

Flag day activities 4,319 activities

Get out to Vote 1500 activities

Four Chaplain Sunday mostly handled by the Auxiliary 1417 activities

TFA 376 minor children of 179 veterans in 35 states received \$228,975 in cash grants

Child Welfare over \$625,053 received in donations of which \$327,597 was contributed by the SAL

Endowment Fund over \$433,125 received in donations

Boys State – WS Turner

Bus has been acquired for \$2600.00 and will hold 54 kids with 2 chaperons. Depart Friday 6/9 at 8:00 am from Post 453 and arrive around 11:30 and return on 6/14 3:30 pm. Registration is \$295 and \$50.00 for spending money to the candidate. Deadline for submission is May 16th

Community Service - none

Constitution & By-Laws – Commander Jones

In order to be eligible for awards your post Constitution and By-Laws must be dated after July 31, 2015. If they are submitted by June 1st you will be eligible.

JrROTC – WS Turner

Went to Wilmer Hutchins & Carter H.S. ROTC and discussed getting and ROTC scholarship

Oratorical – Alton Brown – Commander Jones

Post 53 contestant represented our District in Wichita Falls and took first in Division and went to Frisco for Department and took 3rd place.

S.A.L. Advisor - Dennis Snow – Bill Freauff

SAL is doing well with membership and getting donations for Child Welfare

ALR – Bernard Aderholt – Andy Lowen Division ALR Liaison

2nd Annual ALR Legacy Run Touring South Texas is coming up. This is the last year for Rolling Thunder so go to ALR website and check out the route and date as they will be coming thru the 5th district.

Sick call – none

Service Officer –

2 claims for Veterans Post 292

Department is hoping to get another service officer. Currently 62,000 members and need 10,000 more and will assign a new service officer to the El Paso area. If District 5 can get upwards of 8,000 members we could possibly get a service officer for Dallas.

Unfinished Business – none

New Business –

WS Turner made a motion to accept the contract for the bus to be used for Boys State at a cost of \$2600.00 and 2nd by Alan Caesar. Discussion what will be the cost of a second unit if needed. WS will investigate but confident it would be no more than the \$2600.

Motion amended by WS Turner: Motion to accept the contract for buses to be used for Boys State at a cost not to exceed \$2600 per bus. 2nd by Alan Caesar: Discussion 1st District offered to help fill buses if needed. Motion Approved

Bill Freauff made a motion to approve funds for District Historical year book not to exceed \$50.00 2nd by WS Turner Motion Approved

Good of the Legion:

Reviewed the Buddy Check tool kit

Texas Legion College June 22 and 23 at Mount Pleasant college. Check out the details on the website

Next District Convention April 13th at Post 453 and the registration information will be sent out shortly. Elections will be held if interested

Division Convention is 4/27 at MCM Elegante Hotel & Suites

District meeting in June possibly 2nd Sunday in June possibly at Post 504

Bobby Baker 1st Division Commander – Candidate for Department 1st Vice Commander

Main agenda is to work with us calling for unity and technology. Bobby wants to help us get back into the top ten. Asking for our vote at the Department convention

Andy Lowen 1st District Commander running for 1st Division Commander

Dual member of the SAL and Legion. Retired and has time to help. Andy will be asking the District Commanders for the top 3 and bottom 3 post so he can visit and assist where needed. Andy is currently District Caucus chair so knows how to resolve problems.

Jeff Perkins is running for Department Commander hopefully all our post will be present to cast their votes at the Department Convention

Closing prayer and meeting adjourned at 3:53 pm