

American Legion 5th District, Department of Texas Meeting April 21, 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 9:08. Don Cecil, 5th District Chaplain Emeritus 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 Bob Kaminski	Absent
2. 1st Vice Commander Alan Caesar	Present	17. Const&By-Laws Gary Smith	Present
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	Absent	20. Junior Shooting Chairman	Vacant
6. Asst. Chaplain	Vacant	21. Legislative Zora McPherson	Absent
7. Historian Bill Freauff	Present	22. Membership Chair Alan Caesar	Present
8. Judge Advocate Gary Smith	Present	23. National Security Chairman	Vacant
9. Service Officer Zach Fresquez	Absent	24. Oratorical Chair Alton Brown	Present
10. Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Craig	Excused	25. Public Relations Chairman	Vacant
11. Hub Master Larry Taylor	Absent	26. SAL Advisor Gary Smith	Present
12. ALR Advisor	Vacant	27. School Awards Chairman	Vacant
13. Americanism Chair Dennis Snow	Present	28. VA&R Chairman D.C. Jones	Absent
14. Baseball Chairman Joe Senones	Absent		
15. Boy Scout Chairman	Vacant		

Roll call by Post:

Post 23 – Present	Post 275 – Present	Post 511 – Absent
Post 53 – Absent	Post 292 – Present	Post 581 – Absent
Post 81 – Present	Post 368 – Present	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 – Present	Post 507 – Present	

A Quorum was established

Guests in attendance:

Michael Griffith Post 231
 Terry Bigley Post 379
 Donald E “Gene” Toohey Post 17
 State Vice Commander Phil Westermann
 1st Division Commander Bobby Baker
 Past District 5 Commander Bernard Aderholt
 Past District 5 Commander Gary Smith

State Vice Commander Phil Westermann discussion:

Department is 21st nationwide with 96% and renewals are lagging behind. Consolidated Post Reports are coming up and are very important to be completed and submitted by June 1st. These

have a major impact on veteran benefits. Please remember to complete your Post Certification Forms immediately after elections and the Post Data Form should have already been submitted. National uses this information for sending out membership information.

19th District is looking to be dissolved and absorbed into the surrounding counties. General Membership will vote at the State Convention. One Post in the 19th District is opposed to the motion.

1st Division Commander Bobby Baker discussion:

District 5 is currently number 9 in Department

Bobby had 3 goals when he took office.

1. Raise 13th District from the bottom of the pack and they are currently 5th
2. All Districts in the top 10 – they are
3. Mid-winter our Division was Number 1

Revitalization efforts have helped. All post must go out and get 345 members as they count to your post membership immediately. Constitution and By-Laws that have not been revised and certified since Jan. 31st 2010 must be immediately.

National is currently working on finding a place for non-veteran male spouses.

Division Convention is May 5th and is being hosted by Post 379 and held at the Hurst Conference Center.

Resolution of Endorsement read for the following as well as statements made by each candidate:

Michael Griffith endorsed for State Commander Dept of Texas by Post 231

Terry Bigley endorsed for 1st Division Commander Dept. of Texas by Post 379

Donald E “Gene” Toohey endorsed for 1st Division Commander Dept of Texas by Post 17

Motion made to wave the reading of previous meeting minutes by Don Cecil and 2nd by Gary Smith
No discussion – Motion approved

Pat Flores reviewed the finance report dtd: October 21, 2017 thru April 21, 2018

Motion to approve by Gary Smith 2nd by Jay Miller.

No discussion – Motion approved

Motion to reimburse Post 424 auxiliary for cost of breakfast and lunch expenses – approx.. \$250.00 made by Pat Flores and 2nd by Alan Caesar

No Discussion – approved

1st Vice Commander Alan Caesar discussed membership: Goal is 2913 currently 2407 = 82.63% which is 506 members short. Post 23 = 127.59% Post 424 = 105.10% Post 292 = 101.12%.

Alan recommended that every post should have a membership committee to assist in contacting past due members and 345 members in the area. Following this meeting we have list available for your post zip codes so calls can be made to these individuals. Awards are available if your post meets its goal.

Committee Reports

Americanism Chair – Dennis Snow discussed Americanism is meant to inspire our community, state and nation. We should be working with JrROTC units, etc. Upcoming dates May 18th –American Legion 99th Anniversary, June 14th Flag Day, July 4th Independence Day and should be a lot of parades and activities that we can get involved with.

Baseball – Bill Godfrey Post 597 sponsored 9 teams last year in the junior division. One of our teams won Regionals last year. It is very easy to get involved if you would like some information feel free to contact Bill Godfrey at alpost597@gmail.com.

Boys State – Post 111 will sponsor 3 boys if there is a need

Community Service – Post 111 Donated Flags and Flag Pole to Life School of Cedar Hill

Constitution & By-Laws - Gary Smith stated Post 23, 218, 504, 581 and 656 need to review and submit their C & By-laws.

JrROTC - WS Turner Post 292 handing out medals to Carter H.S., Lancaster H.S. and South Oak Cliff H.S. If you can't make a commitment to a High School program let the District know and we will find a way to help. If you can't get medals you can also contact The American Legion in Washing D.C. and they will send them to you for free.

Gary Smith will post a list of schools that are supported by each post. Please give your feedback so he can insure its accuracy.

National Security - Bill Freauff made a motion that 5th District endorse Terry Morgan for Law Enforcement Officer of the year. 2nd by Gary Smith.

Discussion this endorsement has to be to department by June 1st. For the future all endorsements should be received by the District before the next spring convention.

Motion approved

Oratorical – Ronald Jones stated Paige Shaneck from Rowlett H.S., a female freshmen candidate, won Post level, won Division level, and 2nd in state. The winner declined the invitation to go to Nationals so she went to National but did not make it thru the first round. She will be back.

Public Relations - Ronald Jones 100 year anniversary is coming up. It starts in San Antonio and ends in Dallas.

S.A.L. - Gary Smith discussed 4 squadrons that are subject to having their charter deactivated if the membership does not get above 10. They are Post 275, 368, 504 and 511. Elected a new 5th District Commander Lewis Elam (Catfish).

A.L. Riders Patriot Paws Ride 4/28/2018

Sick call – None

Service Officer – none

Unfinished Business:

Pat Flores reported that the remote for the District projector has been purchased.

Bill Freauff turned in receipts for materials for 2018-2019 year book. Expenses previously approved.

The flag for Post 347 has been tabled max \$350.00.

New Business –

Vicky Sheets reported that Brenda and Bob Finch are spearheading a beautify the VA hospital. Alan Caesar reported flags in disrepair at the VA Hospital. Post 292 is taking on the responsibility to properly retire the old flags. Resource Center across the street from the VA Hospital is one place to check on proper disposal, also recommended to contact your JrROTC program and they will perform the ceremony. Several people will meet with Alan to discuss options. Awards and Ceremony booklet has the proper disposal of a flag listed

Deviations – Motion made by Bernhard Aderholt to approve Joe Johnson Post 597 as the new District Adjutant and 2nd by Alan Caesar
Motion approved

Motion made by Alan Caesar to approve by acclamation and a single vote be made by the Adjutant to elect Nancy Beckham as Chaplain, 2nd by WS Turner.
Motion approved

Good of the Legion:

1st Division convention is Sat. May 5th
Hurst Conference Center and Post 379. Registration 8:00 am Advance fee \$30.00 and \$35.00 at the door. See 5thDistrictLegion.org for more details
Riders 9:00 am
SAL 10:00 am
ALA 9:00 am
Training 9 – 11
Legion 1:00 pm
You may hand carry the Delegation sheets.

Department annual convention is July 11th thru 15th at Omni Hotel in San Antonio.

Resolution DMS 345 members submitted by Post 111: The members signing up on line to be assigned to the closest post to that veteran.

Motion made by Bill Godfrey to accept Resolution DMS 345 and 2nd by WS Turner

Discussion: Gene Toohey advised the number of members that are sitting in 345 admn and should be at local post.

Motion approved.

Discussion:

Gary Smith advised that MyLegion.org is a tool and there are Posts in our District that are not using that as a tool.

MyLegion.org is a great way to keep membership information current. Especially your deceased members so the families are not getting renewal notices, etc.

Male spouses of veterans are being looked at revising the SAL to allow these folks be involved with the Legion.

Closing prayer and meeting adjourned at 11:16