

**American Legion 5th District,
Department of Texas
Meeting**

8 January 2012

District Commander Jeff Perkins opened the meeting in regular order at 1405.

The District Assistant Sgt. at Arms Jim Swafford advanced the Colors.

District Chaplin Don Cecil gave the opening prayer.

Commander Perkins led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion.

Roll call:

Jeff Perkins, 5th District Commander – Present & Presiding

Gary Smith, 5th District Vice Commander – Present

Bill Craig, 5th District Adjutant – Present

Pat Sansom, 5th District Finance Officer – Present

Don Cecil, 5th District Chaplain – Present

Gary Poplin, 5th District Judge Advocate – Present

Bill Freauff, 5th District Historian – Present

Jim McClendon, 5th District Sergeant at Arms – Excused

Jim Swafford, 5th District Asst. Sergeant at Arms – Present

Post in attendance;

53, 81, 111, 184, 368, 424, 453, 504, 507, 511, 597, 656, 802

Post not in attendance;

23, 124, 218, 275, 292, 581, 855

Reading of minutes of previous session:

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the previous session as posted on the district web page.

Motion carried.

Introduction of guests:

Past Division Commander, 2 times Past District Commander: Bob Elkins
Past District Commanders, Dan Arnold and Bernard Aderholt
Past SAL Detachment and District Commander Ed Magers

The District Finance Officer Pat Sansom gave the finance report
After some discussion of the finance report a motion was made to set aside \$500.00 for the winner of the District Oratorical contest.

Committee Reports:

Membership Report:

District Vice Commander Gary Smith reported the 5th District is currently in 3rd place in the division. At this time 3 posts in the district have met the 85% December goal (659, 511, 23) The January goal is 90%.

Vice Commander Smith collected 15 membership renewals.

Commander Perkins asked all present to produce an application for membership. 3 Members present did not have an application on them and the Assistant Sgt. at Arms collected \$3.00

The Commander of Post 656 Charles Ced received an award \$50.00 for 100% American Legion Birthday award.

And another \$50.00 for meeting 6 consecutive membership goals in 2010-2011 post years.

A motion was made by Past District Commander Bernard Aderholt to appoint Trish Madera as Assistant Finance Officer to act as a fill-in during meetings.

Chaplain's Report:

Chaplain Don Cecil reported on the state of the 5th District. We've lost a considerable number of key members at the district level. He expressed his concerns for the future of the district if more people don't take a more active roll in the running of the district.

Boys State:

Past SAL Detachment and District Commander Ed Magers reported that Boys state this year will run from Sunday June 3rd thru Friday June 8th. The price for admission and tuition is \$275.00. Anyone interested in learning more about Boys State can go to txlegion.org. All the information and forms that are need can be found there. The two most important forms to fill out are the application and the Boys State Questionnaire.

A motion was made by Bob Elkins to set aside \$300.00 for the bus to Boys State.

Seconded by Bernard Aderholt. No discussion.

Motion carried.

Convention Report:

Convention will be held on March 24th at

Post 424 Jack B. Swain

217 A East Camp Wisdom Road #184 Duncanville, Texas 75116.

The registration will be \$10.00 advanced sales of \$15.00 at the event.

Oratorical;

The 5th District Oratorical contest was held on January 7th, 2012. There were three contestants.

The winner was Kathryn McElroy representing Post 111.

SAL Report:

Currently the SAL membership is above its goal of 60%. Their next goal is 75% and they are confident they will meet this goal as well.

ALR Advisor Report:

ALR has elected Mike Christy as liaison for the 1st. Division ALR.

Robby Burns as assistant liaison.

5th District Christmas Report:

The District Christmas party held at post 424. Over 60 people attended. District Commander Perkins extended the thanks of the 5th District to Commander Joe Barrera for hosting our 1st Christmas Party.

Post 597 Dart Tournaments:

The 5th District will be holding a dart tournament at Post 597 on February 25th at 1300hrs. It will be a charity event to raise money for "Ride to Recovery" the Entry fee will be \$10.00 per participant. The district will be looking for sponsors for the Dart boards.

Sick Call, relief and employment:

None to report.

Unfinished business:

None to report.

New Business:

Vice Commander/Hub Master Smith reported he would like to transfer the district web site to a different hosting service. This will save the district several hundred dollars over the next 5yrs. The initial investment we be \$200.00 to get started.

A motion was made and seconded for \$200.00 for the district web page.

The Post Commander Troy Jenkins of Grand Prairie 184 was introduced to discuss tax issues. He conveyed an experience his post had when they re-incorporated in 1994. The post officers at that time failed to file as a tax exempt organization. Because of this the state Comptroller had put a tax lean on the corporation. Commander Jenkins explained some of the steps he had to take to clear this up. He also explained what steps the posts should take to avoid a similar situation.

Commander Perkins introduced Commander Larry Taylor of Richardson Post 368 to discuss their situation. The past Commander of the post closed the post and sold all the posts property. The new officers are trying to reopen the post. They are asking if any post in the District would be able to

assist them. They are in need of tables, chair, and a cash register. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Commander Perkins introduced Commander of Post 656 Charles Ced to discuss a project he has been working on. He along with the Sea Scouts, have been trying to develop a charter school for military dependents in Galveston TX. He currently has a 20yr lease on a former Marine Corps training facility. He is turning to the American Legion to help develop this plan. Commander Perkins said he would bring this plan up at the next Department meeting.

Commander Perkins reported on the 2013 Department Convention. The Convention will be held in Irving TX. The 5th District will be responsible for the convention. The District will be having a contest for the convention for the design of the convention Logo. This logo will be used on hats, pins, shirts that the 5th District will be selling at the convention. All submissions for the Logo design need to be in by the Spring convention on March 24th.

Commander Perkins turned over the meeting to Vice Commander Smith. Vice Commander Smith reported the Dallas Stars are having a Veterans Night on March 10th. If the 5th District can sell 100 or more tickets to the events the Stars will provide a table on the Concourse for recruiting. A flyer is being prepared with the details and will be posted thru the email distribution list.

Commander of Post 597 reported on a program 597s AUX is involved in called "Sweats for Vets." This is program through the VA that supports homeless Vets when they are at the VA by providing them with sweats and coats. Also Post 597 is planning a job fair in March for veterans. They want to hold it in Dallas. A location has not been determined as of yet.

District Chaplin Don Cecil led the closing prayer.

Assistant District Sgt. at Arms Jim Swafford retired the colors.

Vice Commander Smith closed the meeting in regular order at 1520 hrs.

Submitted;
Bill Craig
Adjutant, 5th District
Department of Texas