

# **District Meeting Minutes February 15, 2015 – 2:00 PM**

**Post Colors (Bill Craig)**

**Prayer (Joe Carter)**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**POW/MIA Chair (Bill Craig)**

**Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion**

**Roll Call (Marico Jefferson)**

District Officers Present: Commander, Vice, Adjutant, Sergeant-at-Arms, Finance Officer, Chaplain. Absent: Historian, Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms

Posts Present: 292, 802, 53, 368, 453, 504, 111, 511, 507, 275

**Guest Introductions**

Ken Watterson—Veterans Resource Center; Presenting volunteer awards to Otis Robbins, Diane Robbins, Charlie Peoples, Patricia Hill

Phil Anderson Presents Guest—Veteran Employment Resource; Chris Fowler--Empower Program: helping veterans develop technology skills, OJT, resume writing, interview skills. Corporate Sponsors for Empower Jazz at Dallas Event (Terrance Blanchard). Greater Tech Community of Dallas Robert Dixon (CIO) Pepsico; Proceeds to benefit veterans in the program. Asking for monetary donations/sponsorship from the American Legion, encourage people to attend the event.

**Minutes – Last District/Convention (Marico Jefferson)**

Gary Poplin—motion to accept the minutes as posted online.

Bill Craig—Second; motion carried

**Finance Report (Pat Sansom)—report attached**

Gary Poplin—Motion to accept report; pending audit

Bill Craig—second; motion carried

Discussion: Pat Samson; \$500 advance for food purchase for District Conventions to post. Receipts are needed.

Larry—motion to hold follow up discussion at next meeting after receipt will be provided to Finance Officer.

Gary Poplin—second; motion carried

Additional Discussion:

Gary Poplin—motion to have a convention committee

Alton Brown—second; motion carried

**Commander's Report**—report attached

### **Committee & Advisor Reports –**

**Membership (Larry Taylor) –** Post 292 leading district for membership

**Americanism (Dennis Snow) \*** --excused

**Community Service \***

**Children & Youth \* Junior Shooting \* School Awards - Baseball (Larry Taylor) –** baseball rule book changes; noted changes have to do with expediting the game and player eligibility. report attached

**Boy Scouts (Bernard Aderholt)-** Bernard Aderholt sends message via Gary Poplin one boy scout nominee for eagle scout of the year award.

**Boys State (Vacant) –** Cmdr. reiterates the need to get boys registered and nominated early.

Bob Elkins—motion to provide \$300 to pay for Boys State transportation if needed

Gary Poplin—Second; motion carried

Gary Poplin—motion that cost for transportation to go to boys state be changed to \$60 per passenger.

Herman Yentz-- second; motion carried

**Constitution & Bylaws (Bill Freauff & Gary Poplin) – report attached**

**Legislative (Ed Kownslar) – excused**

**National Security (Jeff Perkins) - excused**

**Oratorical (Cyndi Miller)- 13<sup>th</sup> District participant won the competition. 5<sup>th</sup> District Participant Jayden Warren.**

**Public Relations (Tom Kelly) – excused**

**VA&R (Vacant) \* Ken Watterson -**

**JROTC (Matt Graska) – Mesquite H.S. shooting team in Talladega competing this weekend. Post 504 donated funds for the trip.**

**SAL Advisor (Larry Taylor) – report attached**

**ALR Advisor (Glenn Wilson)—Veteran Resource Center Feb 18- meals for first responders. Post 453 Legion Riders sponsoring eater egg hunt for children of homeless veterans April 11.Fundraiser month of March to support Empower.**

Gary Poplin—motion to remove Glen Wilson and accept ALR Advisor Phil Anderson nomination.

Bobby Vandembush—second, motion carried.

### **Sick Call, Relief and Employment**

**Service Officer's Report (Vacant)—looking for volunteers. Dan Falls recognize for helping two veterans process claims during national revitalization efforts.**

**Unfinished Business - 2014 Membership Awards (not previously presented) - National Revitalization Team Results (Jan. 29-31)**

**New Business - District Officer Elections at Spring Convention April 18 - Post Excellence Awards - Mid-Winter DEC Feedback - Hand-out Transfer Sheets - District Prayer Breakfast**

**Resolutions (Marico Jefferson) -- Resolutions attached**

Two resolutions read: Edward Kownslar, John Hince.

Gary Poplin—motion to set aside resolutions

Alton brown—second, motion carried

**Good of the Legion - Around the District Roll Call**

**Announcements - Next District Meeting – April 18, Love Field Post 453**

**Closing Prayer (Joe Carter)**

**POW/MIA Retired (Bill Craig)**

**Colors Retired (Bill Craig)**

**Meeting Adjourned 4:11**

## **COMMANDER'S REPORT**

**February 15, 2015**

As District Commander, I have visited many Posts since our last meeting. In addition, I took part or represented the 5<sup>th</sup> District in the following: 5<sup>th</sup> District Christmas Party, District Oratorical competition, DEC in Austin, Post Revitalization effort, 34<sup>th</sup> Annual 5<sup>th</sup> District Auxiliary Prayer Breakfast, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Division Oratorical competition.

Over the next 2 months my visits to Posts will be curtailed somewhat as I am now working full time through the tax season. However, focus will still be maintained on reaching our membership goals, starting a new Post in Rowlett, and setting in motion the formation of a new Post in DeSoto.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Smith  
5<sup>th</sup> District Commander  
The American Legion  
Department of Texas  
214-431-2187

**American Legion 5th District  
Finance Officer Report of Pat Sansom**

**For the Period 18 October 2014 through 15 February 2015**

Year to Date  
Sept 1, 14 - Feb 14, 15

Break-down of Income:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Boys State donations		
SAL Income		\$ 59.95
Spring Convention Income		
Fall Convention Income	\$ 435.00	\$1,215.00
Fines at meetings/conventions	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00
Interest Income		\$ 0.10
Total Income	<u>\$ 437.00</u>	<u>\$1,277.05</u>

Break-down of of expense:		
Pat O'Henry Oratory Medal	\$ 11.90	\$ 11.90
Boys State expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Fall Convention expenses (includes SAL & Aux pmt)		\$ 500.00
SAL expenses		\$ 197.65
Donations/MHS JROTC	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00
meeting expenses/Xmas Party supplies	\$ 35.57	\$ 119.81
paper & ink cartridges	\$ 34.62	\$ 34.62
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 232.09</u>	<u>\$1,038.98</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 204.91</u>	<u>\$ 238.07</u>

Total District Assets:	
Checking account	\$ 1,016.33
Chase Dept Checking account	\$ 9,409.71
Boys State Account	\$ 2,178.75
SAL account	\$ 3,953.38
Total District assets	<u>\$ 16,558.17</u>

Break-down by accounts	
2013 Dept Convention Fund	\$ 3,061.89
Boy State Fund	1,578.75
Convention Fund	4,289.80
Education/Training Fund	750.50
General Fund	2,323.85
Oratorical Fund	600.00
SAL Fund	3,953.38
Total Fund accounts	<u>\$ 16,558.17</u>

Respectfully submitted,



Pat Sansom  
Finance Officer

Copies to:

- Commander
- Adjutant
- File

# Membership Report 5<sup>th</sup> District Dept. of Texas

February 15, 2015

Currently the 5<sup>th</sup> District is 84.15% of goal we are number 9 in the state of Texas and need 437 members to achieve or goal of 100%. March 5, 2015 we should be at 95% but we have a long way to go.

I would like to congratulate post 282 for leading the 5<sup>th</sup> District at 120.37% of goal, post 184 at 103.30, 656 and 802 at 100. %. We have 3 posts in the 90s. To Date only 7 Posts out of 20 are making goal.

I know that a lot of post have been very busy the first part of this fiscal year but I would like to ask that each post make membership a priority, as we have started slow but we can finish strong. Retention is a big part of or membership drive and any membership cards you have that have not been renewed please give them a call and ask them to renew and continue to support veterans in your area, you would be surprised at how many will say yes.

Last year the 5<sup>th</sup> District finished number 1 in the State of Texas, I know with your help we can be number 1 again. Anyone needing help with membership please do not hesitate to call me.

Larry Taylor

Vice-Commander 5<sup>th</sup> District

Dept. of Texas

# American Legion Department of Texas

"Let's Lead The Way"

February 13, 2015

District: 5 Commander: Gary Smith

Membership Year: 2015

Post Location	All-Time High	Goal	PUFL	New	Renewals		T'ers	Total	% Of Goal	100% Date	Last Trans
					Online	Renewals					
292 DALLAS	111	54	3	12	50	7	5	65	120.37	12/31/2014	02/06/2015
184 GRAND PRAIRIE	189	91	7	3	84	20	6	94	103.30	01/20/2015	02/13/2015
656 DALLAS	93	33	1	1	31	1		33	100.00	08/20/2014	08/20/2014
802 DALLAS	277	22	0	5	17	1	1	22	100.00	02/09/2015	02/09/2015
53 DALLAS	276	97	13	4	79	15	5	96	98.97		01/20/2015
424 DALLAS	304	75	14	3	56	9	3	73	97.33		02/08/2015
368 RICHARDSON	505	339	34	10	266	56	11	310	91.45		02/12/2015
23 GARLAND	46	47	0	2	39	6	5	41	87.23		02/08/2015
453 DALLAS	732	426	52	11	300	50	1	363	85.21		02/08/2015
581 DALLAS	102	50	0	6	36	4	6	42	84.00		02/08/2015
597 CARROLLTON	357	348	42	17	229	78	5	288	82.76		02/12/2015
504 MESQUITE	506	256	22	2	187	28	5	211	82.42		02/08/2015
218 IRVING	223	125	19	0	82	17		101	80.80		02/02/2015
111 CEDAR HILL	186	127	12	1	88	17	5	101	79.53		02/08/2015
81 DUNCANVILLE	718	359	43	7	219	27	1	269	74.93		02/08/2015
511 DALLAS	502	74	13	8	34	10		55	74.32		01/16/2015
507 BALCH SPRINGS	153	104	8	8	59	3		75	72.12		01/26/2015
124 DALLAS	99	21	4	0	10	0		14	66.67		02/09/2015
275 DALLAS	198	94	4	14	41	6		59	62.77		02/02/2015
855 DALLAS	136	15	0	1	7	0		8	53.33		10/16/2014
District: 5	20	2,767	291	115	1914	355	59	2320	84.15		

Post Ranking By % of Goal NC - Indicates Posts not certified by the July 31st deadline and are not eligible for membership awards

This is the new membership report format - the Online renewals and 345 T'ers columns are broken out for information purposes only, these members are actually reflected in the renewals column.



# American Legion Baseball

5<sup>th</sup> District Dept. of Texas

February 15, 2015

There have been changes in the 2015 American Legion Baseball rules. The new rule book for 2015 is currently in the process of being sent to all state department baseball chairmen to distribute to coaches the 2015 rule book is also available for download at [www.baseball.legion.org](http://www.baseball.legion.org)

The changes are as follows:

See Attachment

Anyone needing help in starting up a American Legion Base Team please feel free to call me, I would be glad to help.

Larry Taylor Vice-Commander

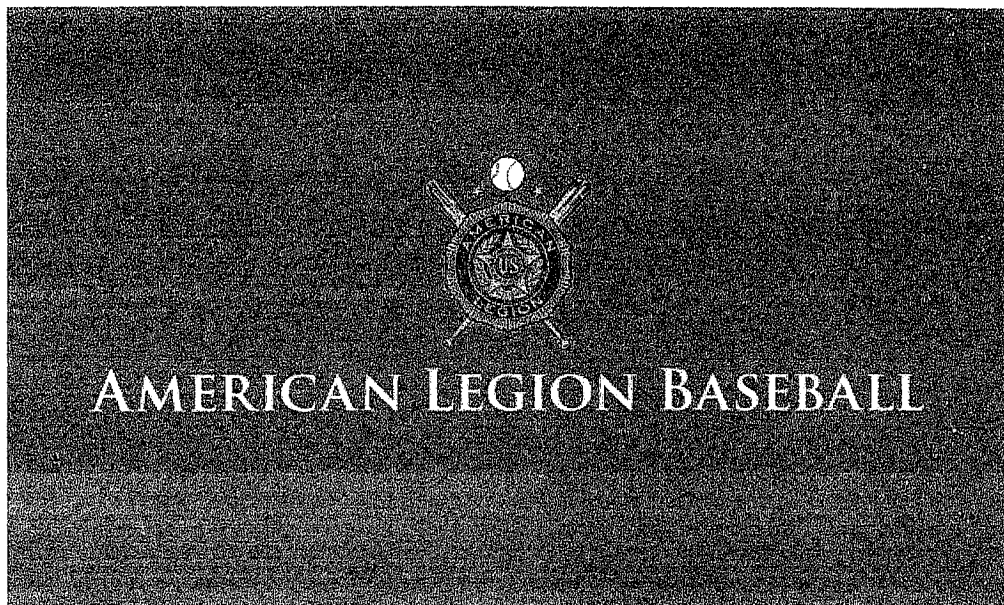
Fifth District

Dept. of Texas

# New changes in 2015 Legion Baseball Rule Book

The American Legion - January 28, 2015

Featured in [American Legion Baseball](#)



The 2015 American Legion Baseball Rule Book is currently in the process of being sent to all state department baseball chairmen to distribute to coaches. The rule book is also available for download [here](#).

## The Dugout e-newsletter

Baseball news stories, events, updates and special offers delivered directly to your e-mail inbox.

Rule changes include:

E-mail Address

**Sign up**

### Rule 1 B. The Batter:

1. The batter shall not leave his position in the batter's box after the pitcher comes to set position or starts his windup.
2. The batter shall keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the batter's time at bat unless one of the eight exceptions applies (read them on page 7 of the rule book), in which case the batter may leave the batter's box but not the dirt area surrounding home plate.

**Rule 1 Q-4. Pitching Rule:** When the bases are unoccupied, the pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter within 12 seconds after he receives the ball. Each time the pitcher delays the game by violating this rule, the umpire shall call "Ball."

a) The 12-second timing starts when the pitcher is in possession of the ball and the batter is in the box, alert to the pitcher. The timing stops when the pitcher releases the ball.

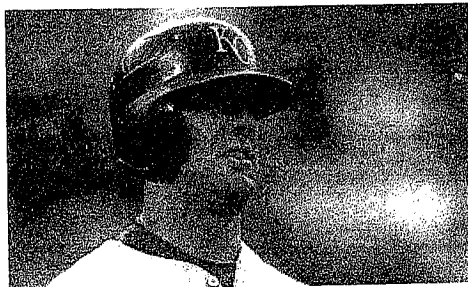
b) The intent of this rule is to avoid unnecessary delays. The umpire shall insist that the catcher return the ball promptly to the pitcher, and that the pitcher take his position on the rubber promptly. Obvious delay by the pitcher should instantly be penalized by the umpire.

**Rule 2 B-4. 2014 Graduated Students:** Players who graduated in 2014 shall play for the last senior American Legion team they played for. If a team should fail to form and/or exist, the player must play for the team nearest their parents' domicile. Players who graduated in 2014 shall not be eligible to be transferred (Forms 76 and 77). Their name must have appeared on a previously approved senior team roster.

**Rule 9 H. Department Championship Play:** Department championship tournaments will comply with national tournament rules and policies outlined in National Rule 9 and American Legion Baseball Tournament Policies adopted by the National Americanism Commission. No department may enter a team in a national regional tournament without first conducting an official department tournament that had two or more certified teams participating.

Additionally, there have been clarifications to Rule 6 D: Dual Participation. American Legion Baseball players or teams may participate in other amateur baseball programs; however, the team manager and player must obtain written approval from the department baseball chairman prior to participating in the event and/or tournament. The use of National Form 6 is strongly recommended and is available online at [www.baseball.legion.org](http://www.baseball.legion.org).

## More in American Legion Baseball



Kansas City Royals player earns Legion Baseball honor



Back at the World Series

ChrisWU1

February 11, 2015 - 11:48am

teams follow Official Baseball Rules, except those changes authorized by the National Americanism Commission. These modifications are safety rules, to include wood, metal, ceramic and graphite bats, 1.A; blood, 1.C; catcher's equipment, 1.D; first-aid kits, 1.J; pitching limits, 1.Q; tobacco, 1.S; and the slide rule, 1.G and 1.I, all of which are not addressed in Official Baseball Rules. The National Americanism Commission traditionally adopts various safety rules used by the NCAA. For player safety, coaches, umpires and American Legion tournament officials are instructed to enforce these rules throughout the season.

#### **A. Bat Rule.**

1. Wood bat. The bat must be a smooth, rounded stick not more than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter at its thickest part nor more than 42 inches in length. An indentation in the end of the bat up to 1 inch in depth is permitted (cupped bats).
2. Non-wood bats. Metal, ceramic, composite or graphite bats may be used provided they do not exceed 36 inches in length and the maximum diameter is  $25/8$  inches.
3. Any non-wood bat must have the BBCOR certification code marked on the barrel of the bat.
4. Any non-wood bat that does not display the approved certification mark or in the umpire's judgment has been altered shall be removed from the game, and the player and team manager shall be ejected.

#### **B. The Batter.** The batter shall take his position in the batter's box promptly when it his time at bat.

1. The batter shall not leave his position in the batter's box after the pitcher comes to set position or starts his windup.
2. The batter shall keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the batter's time at bat, unless one of the following exceptions applies, in which case the batter may leave the batter's box but not the dirt area surrounding home plate:
  - a) The batter swings at a pitch;
  - b) The batter is forced out of the batter's box by a pitch;
  - c) A member of either team requests and is granted "Time";

- d) A defensive player attempts a play on a runner at any base;
- e) The batter feints a bunt;
- f) A wild pitch or passed ball occurs;
- g) The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound after receiving the ball;
- h) The catcher leaves the catcher's box to give defensive signals.

(Official Baseball Rule 6.)

### POINT OF EMPHASIS

American Legion Baseball umpires are to enforce this pace of play rule.

- C. Blood Rule.** If a player suffers from a laceration or other injury where blood is visible, the game shall be stopped at the earliest possible time and the athlete treated immediately. If the injury requires extensive treatment, a substitute shall replace the injured player. (Umpires are directed to give a reasonable amount of time to allow all injured players to be treated.) No re-entry is allowed.
- D. Catcher's Equipment.** Catchers are required to wear a safety helmet, throat protector and protective cup, in addition to normal catcher's equipment:
1. All catcher's masks must have a built-in or attachable throat guard. Umpires and tournament officials shall halt the game until this rule is complied with.
  2. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, a catcher must wear a mask. Any person who refuses to do so shall be ejected from the game.
- E. Coaches.** Only those players and coaches listed on the team's National (Electronic) Registration Form #1 are permitted on the coaching lines.
- F. Courtesy Runners.** During the regular season and post-season, Senior American Legion teams shall not use courtesy runners.

# Fifth District SAL Report

February 15, 2015

The SAL 5<sup>th</sup> District as of February 15, 2015 is 69.25% of goal. This year their goal is 413 members which they have 286 members. They need 127 renewals to make goal.

Squadron ~~111~~<sup>453</sup> bought and presented to Children's Hospital 10 Josh Dogs for the kids that are having operations.

Any AL member that can become a dual AL-SAL member please do so to help the SAL as a dual member your SAL dues is only \$10.00.

Larry Taylor 5<sup>th</sup> District Vice-Commander

5<sup>th</sup> District SAL Advisor



District Meeting report

Constitution and Bylaws

February 15, 2015

Since my last report at our August meeting I have received one question from Mary East, the Commander of Post 597, regarding the inclusion of a Post Program in a Legion C & BL document. No other requests for information or assistance have been received from other Posts inside the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

Please remember your Post documents are living documents requiring regular review to protect your Post and Members.

I remain a resource to assist 5<sup>th</sup> District Posts with questions or concerns on their C&BL's.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bill Freauff'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'B' and 'F'.

Bill Freauff

CB&L Chairman



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
LOVE FIELD POST 453  
2755 BACHMAN DRIVE  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75220

**Resolution of Endorsement  
For  
District Chaplain**

**Whereas**, The Love Field Post 453, Dallas, Texas, has in its membership a dedicated Legionnaire by the name of **Edward (Ed) Kownslar**, who has all the qualifications and desires to serve the Legionnaires of the 5th District of the Department of Texas in this capacity; and

**Whereas**, Ed has been a member of The American Legion for 8 years and is eligible through his service in the United States Navy from 1989 to 1996; and

**Whereas**, Ed has served his post as Post Chaplain at Post 453 from 2010-2015; Chaplain for the Sons of the American Legion, 5<sup>th</sup> District of the Department of Texas from 2013 to 2015, Commander, Squadron 453 of the Sons of the American Legion at Love Field Post 453 from 2013 to 2014; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, we the members of the Love Field Post 453, Dallas, Texas at our regular membership meeting held January 6, 2015, go on record to unanimously endorse **Edward (Ed) Kownslar** for the office of Chaplain, 5<sup>th</sup> District of the Department of Texas.

Charles Peoples  
Post Commander  
Love Field Post 453

Robert Vandebush  
Adjutant  
Love Field Post 453



4032 Austins Estates Drive  
Bryan, TX 77808  
November 6, 2014

Gary Smith  
5<sup>th</sup> District Commander  
5060 Hidden Lake Trail  
Midlothian, TX 76065

Dear Commander Smith:

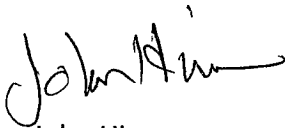


Enclosed you will find my resolution indicating that I am running for the office of Department Vice Commander for 2015-2016.

The Department of Texas needs serious and knowledgeable leadership if we are to achieve all those tasks of which we are capable. I intend to work unceasingly to provide that leadership. We require a transformation that builds on our past leadership, recognizes and utilizes our current leadership, and cultivates and trains our future leadership. This will create an environment in which we will strive together to build membership and program participation.

As you see fit, I would appreciate your support in this endeavor.

For God and Country



John Hince  
Post 159  
Bryan, TX




Earl Graham Post No. 159  
American Legion

RESOLUTION OF ENDORSEMENT

- WHEREAS, it shall be the duty of the delegates to the 2015 American Legion Department of Texas Convention to elect a qualified Legionaire to serve as Department Vice Commander; and,
- WHEREAS, Earl Graham Post No. 159, Bryan, Texas, has in its ranks a qualified Legionaire named John Hince who is dedicated to serving the Legionaires of Texas as Department Vice Commander; and,
- WHEREAS, Legionaire John Hince earned his eligibility as a member of the American Legion by virtue of his service in the United States Army from 1969-1973, including a tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam; and,
- WHEREAS, Legionaire John Hince has served his Post as Chaplain, Adjutant, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, and Commander: and,
- WHEREAS, Legionaire John Hince remains active in Post No. 159 as a member of the Board of Trustees and of the Post No. 159 Honor Guard; and,
- WHEREAS, Legionaire John Hince served as District 6 Commander, 2012-2014, and achieved 100% of membership goal both years; and,
- WHEREAS, Legionaire John Hince is currently serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Commander; and,
- WHEREAS, Legionaire John Hince has activley served on and contributed to the Department Executive Committee, the Long Range Planning Committee, the Finance and Budget Committee, Legislative Commission, and was selected as Chair of the District Commanders' Caucus for 2013-2014, and
- WHEREAS, Legionaire John Hince represented the Department of Texas at the 2014 National Convention in Charlotte, NC as a delegate and as a member of the National Security/Foreign Relations subcommittee, and
- WHEREAS, Legionaire John Hince authored the resolution to revise and reduce the cost of Paid Up For Life membership, which was approved and submitted to National by the Department of Texas; and,
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Earl Graham Post No. 159, American Legion, at it's meeting held on November 6, 2014, wholeheartedly and unanimously endorses John Hince for the high office of Department of Texas Vice Commander for the year 2015-16.

  
Gary Banta  
Commander

  
Tom Marty  
Adjutant