

5TH CONVENTION
25 MARCH 2017

- 1) 1341 Call to order by Commander Larry Taylor
- 2) Sergeant-at-Arms (Comrade Bill Craig) posted the colors
- 3) Chaplin Edward Kownslar lead us in prayer
- 4) Sergeant-at-Arms draped the MIA flag
- 5) Membership recited the Pledge of Alliance
- 6) Membership recited the Preamble of the American Legion
- 7) 1347 Commander Taylor declared the meeting open
- 8) Roll call of Officer's and Post revealed a quorum was present.
 - 1) District Commander Larry Taylor Present
 - 2) 1st Vice Commander Ronnie Jones Present
 - 3) Finance Officer Pat Sansom Present
 - 4) Adjutant Alan H. Caesar Present
 - 5) Judge Advocate Sam Underwood Present
 - 6) Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Craig Present
 - 7) Chaplin Edward Kownslar Present
 - 8) ALR Advisor Bill Godfery **Absent**
 - 9) Service Officer Zach Fresquez Present
 - 10) Hub Master Linda Weston Present
 - 11) Americanism Chair Dennis Snow Present
 - 12) Oratorical Chair Alton Brown **Excused**
 - 13) Boys State Chair Bob Kaminski Present
 - 14) Const. & By Laws Gary Smith Present
 - 15) SAL Advisor Gary Smith Present
 - 16) Baseball Chair Joe Senones Present
 - 17) VA&R Chair D.C. Jones **Absent**
 - 18) Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms Vacant
 - 19) Asst. Chaplin Vacant
 - 20) Children & Youth Chair Vacant
 - 21) JROTC Chair Vacant
 - 22) Jr. Shooting Chair Vacant
 - 23) Legislative Chair Jeff Perkins Present
 - 24) Membership Chair Vacant
 - 25) National Security Chair Vacant
 - 26) Public Relations Chair Vacant
 - 27) School Awards Chair Vacant
 - 28) Community Service Chair Vacant
 - 29) Historian Vacant
- 9) Roll call by Post revealed the following:
 - a. Post 23 – Present
 - b. Post 53 – Present
 - c. Post 81 – **Absent**
 - d. Post 111 – Present
 - e. Post 124 – **Absent**
 - f. Post 184 – **Absent**
 - g. Post 218 – **Absent**
 - h. Post 275 – **Absent**
 - i. Post 292 – Present
 - j. Post 368 – Present
 - k. Post 424 – Present
 - l. Post 453 – Present
 - m. Post 504 – Present
 - n. Post 507 – Present
 - o. Post 511 – Present
 - p. Post 581 – **Absent**
 - q. Post 597 – Present
 - r. Post 656 – **Absent**
 - s. Post 802 – Present
 - t. Post 855 – **Absent**
- 10) 1st "Reading of Credentials" by Gary Smith revealed the following Post were present with delegates:
 - a. 23 with three (3) delegates
 - b. 111 with five (5) delegates
 - c. 292 with four (4) delegates
 - d. 368 with thirteen (13) delegates

- e. 424 with five (5) delegates
- f. 453 with sixteen (16) delegates
- g. 504 with nine (9) delegates
- h. 507 with five (5) delegates
- i. 597 with thirteen (13) delegates
- j. Total number of registered voting delegates at 1st Reading of Credentials; 73.

Commander Taylor recognized the visiting dignitaries and guest in attendance. They were as follows:

- a. Walter Ivie – Department Commander
- b. David Harvey – 1st Division Commander
- c. Bob Elkins – Past 5th District & Division Commander
- d. Jeff Perkins – Past 5th District & Division Commander
- e. Gary Smith – Past 5th District Commander
- f. Bobby Baker – Past 1st District Commander
- g. Don Toohey – Past Department Sgt.-at-Arms
- h. John Hince – Past Department Vice-Commander

Reading of Resolutions:

- i. The Earl Graham Post 159, the American Legion, Department of Texas, in regular meeting assembled in Bryan, Texas on June 2, 2016, endorses John Hince for the high office of Department Commander for 2017/2018.
- j. The Otho Morgan Post #17, in regular meeting in Greenville, Texas unanimously endorse the candidacy of Donald W. Toohey for the High Office of Department Vice Commander of the American Legion Department of Texas, during the year of 2017/2018.
- k. The Big Bend Post #79, Alpine, Texas, at a special membership meeting unanimously endorsed W.E. “Rusty” Herman for the high office of Department Judge Advocate for the years 2017/2018.
- l. The Jack D. Levy, Post #573, Harker Heights, Texas at a regular membership meeting unanimously endorsed Dan Corbin for the high office of Department Judge Advocate for the years 2017/2018.
- m. The Woodlands Post #305, Woodlands, Texas at a regular membership meeting unanimously endorsed Kimberly Biggerstaff for the High Office of Department Sergeant-at-Arms for the years 2017/2018.
- n. The Balch Springs Post #507, Balch Springs, Texas at a regular membership meeting unanimously endorsed Ronald Jones for the High Office of 5th District Commander, Department of Texas, for the years 2017/2019.
- o. The Balch Springs Post #507, Balch Springs, Texas at a regular membership meeting unanimously endorsed Bill Craig for the office of 5th District Sgt.-at-Arms, Department of Texas, for the years 2017/2019.

11) The following candidates spoke to the body assembled regarding the offices they seek:

- a. John Hince
- b. Donald W. Toohey
- c. Bobby Baker
- d. Ronald Jones

12) 2nd “Reading of Credentials” by Gary Smith revealed the following Post were present with delegates:

- a) 23 with three (3) delegates
- b) 53 with six (6) delegates
- c) 111 with five (5) delegates
- d) 292 with four (4) delegates
- e) 368 with thirteen (13) delegates
- f) 424 with five (5) delegates
- g) 453 with sixteen (16) delegates
- h) 504 with nine (9) delegates
- i) 507 with five (5) delegates
- j) 511 with four (4) delegates
- k) 597 with thirteen (13) delegates
- l) Total number of registered voting delegates at 2nd Reading of Credentials; 83.

- 13) 5th District Elections: The Commander entertained a motion from Ed Kowslar to suspend the meeting to conduct elections; motion 2nd by Bill Craig. Motion carried by majority vote.
- For 5th District Commander, Bill Freauff motioned and Sam Underwood the 2nd motion nominations be suspended. Bill Freauff moved that the Adjutant cast one vote by acclamation for Ron Jones. Motion carried by majority vote.
 - Jeff Perkins nominated Alan Caesar for the High Office of 5th District Vice-Commander. W.S. Turner motioned and Sennie Cox 2nd the motion nominations be suspended. Motion carried by majority vote. Jeff Perkins moved that the Adjutant cast one vote by acclamation for Alan Caesar. Motion carried by majority vote.
 - For 5th District Sergeant-at-Arms, William Godfrey motioned and Ed Kowslar 2nd the motion nominations be suspended. Motion carried by majority vote. Ed Kowslar nominated Bill Craig for the High Office of 5th District Sgt.-at-Arms and moved the Adjutant cast one vote for Bill Craig. William Godfrey motioned and Ed Kowslar 2nd the motion nominations be suspended. Motion carried by majority vote.
 - Bill Craig nominated Ed Kowslar for the high office of 5th District Chaplin. Robert Elkins motioned and Bill Craig 2nd the motion nominations be suspended. Motioned carried by majority vote. Bill Craig moved that the Adjutant cast one vote by acclamation for Ed Kowslar. Motioned carried by majority vote.
 - This concluded the election. Regular and routine 5th District Convention business resumed.
- 14) Commander Taylor reiterated that the “Post Consolidation Report” (CPR) may be the most important document your post will complete this year. Your post’s information, combined with that of other posts, is used when the National Commander and others testify on Capitol Hill on behalf of all veterans. Each post has a story and when we speak collectively our strength is magnified. Post reports can be found on “MyLegion.org. as well as “Post Consolidated Report” forms.
- 15) 5th District Adjutant (Alan Caesar) read the minutes of the last 5th District Convention. Jeff Perkins moved and Bob Kaminski 2nd the motion to accept the minutes as read (with any necessary corrections’). The motion carried by majority vote.
- 16) Gary Smith motioned and Dennis Snow 2nd the motion to wave reading of the last 5th District meeting minutes as they are posted on the District website (with any necessary corrections’). The motion carried by majority vote.
- 17) Finance Officer (Pat Sansom) distributed copies of the finance report; reporting period of this report was 16 Oct. 016 thru 25 March 2017.
- Jeff Perkins motioned and Ed Kowslar 2nd the motion to move funds into the General Fund and Oratorical Fund to eliminate their current negative balances. The motion carried by majority vote.
 - Pat Sansom motioned and Jeff Perkins 2nd the motion to pay the expenses related to the 5th District Convention. The motion carried by majority vote.
 - Jeff Perkins motioned and Alan Caesar 2nd the motion to approve the finance report (pending any necessary corrections). The motion carried by majority vote.
- 18) Committee & Advisor Reports:
- Membership - Ron Jones (Vice-Commander) reported the following:
 - Collected any transmittals to be sent in
 - 5th District is 8th out of 23 districts @ 80.08%; 572 members short of our goal
 - 1st District currently in 2nd place at 78.67% of goal
 - Post #53 was 1st to reach 100% of membership followed by post #424
 - Consolidated Post Reports(CPR) are due soon; as well as Certification of Officers (turn in as soon as elections are completed.
 - Each post should consider utilizing social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat etc.) as outreach tool for recruiting new and younger members.
 - Americanism – Dennis Snow

- 1) April is “Child and Youth Activities Month”
 - 2) Boys State/Girls State, American Legion Baseball, Soccer, Jr. Shooting are examples of “Child and Youth Activities”
 - 3) The American Legion was founded in May of 1919
 - 4) 14 June 2017 – Flag Day
 - 5) Make the time and take the opportunity to reach out to “older members”
 - c. Community Service – Vacant Chair
 - d. Children & Youth – Vacant Chair
 - e. Junior Shooting – Vacant Chair
 - 1) Mesquite High School Jr. Shooting team missed placing at the National Jr. Shooting competition in Alabama by only three shots.
 - f. Schools Awards – Vacant Chair
 - g. Baseball – Eight (8) teams currently on board to begin practice/play in late spring
 - h. Boys State – Orientation @ Post 453 on 21 May @ 1:00. Discussion and decision to donate \$300.00 to the Boys State Fund tabled until the May 2017 District meeting.
 - i. Constitution and By-Laws – The following Post do not have updated CBL’s;
 - 1) 23
 - 2) 18
 - 3) 504
 - 4) 581
 - 5) The next opportunity for DEC approval of CBL’s will be at the Convention in July 2017.
 - j. Sick Call:
 - 1) The 5th District and all our family members wish to express our sincere condolences to 5th District Commander (Larry Taylor).
 - 2) Louise Morgan
- 19) Unfinished Business: None
- 20) New Business: None
- 21) For the Good of the Legion:
- a. Post 453 Riders will recognize “Memorial Day” at the Forest Lawn Cemetery
 - b. David Harvey share that the 1st Division is proposing a constitutional change. The change will recommend that the retainment of previous Finance Officer and Adjutant due to the criticality of the jobs they do. This and any change must be submitted one week (seven days) prior to the 1st Division meeting.
 - c. It is highly recommended and greatly encouraged that a \$25,000.00 surety bond be maintained on each Post Commander, Finance Office and Post Adjutant.
 - d. Each Post should strive to increase membership by 15% in 2017
 - e. Each Post should strive to increase renewals by 95% by 5 April 2017
 - f. Mylegion.org remains an excellent source for information and tools useful in recruiting new and renewing current Legionnaires.
 - g. It is highly recommended and strongly encouraged that each Post submit their current and correct e-mail address to the Hub master.
 - h. Tools and information regarding
- 22) Closing
- a. 1538 - Benediction
 - b. 1539 - MIA Flag Retired
 - c. 1540 – National Ensign Retired
 - d. 1541 – Meeting adjourned