

## American Legion 5th District, Department of Texas Spring Convention Meeting April 13th, 2019 Held at Post 453

District Commander Ronald Jones opened the meeting in regular order with the posting of the Colors and placing of the POW/MIA flag at 1:37. 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	Vacant
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	Absent
10. Sergeant-at-Arms	Vacant	25. Public Relations Chairman	Vacant
11. Hub Master Larry Taylor	Absent	26. SAL Advisor Dennis Snow	Present
12. ALR Advisor		27. School Awards Chairman	Vacant
13. Americanism Chair Dennis Snow	Present	28. VA&R Chairman Linda Weston	Present
14. Baseball Chairman	Vacant		
15. Boy Scout Chairman	Vacant		

### Roll call by Post:

Post 23 – Present	Post 275 – Present	Post 507 – Present
Post 53 – Absent	Post 292 – Present	Post 511 – Present
Post 81 – Present	Post 347 – Absent	Post 581 – Absent
Post 111 – Absent	Post 368 – Absent	Post 597 – Present
Post 124 – Absent	Post 424 – Present	Post 656 – Absent
Post 184 – Absent	Post 453 – Present	Post 802 – Present
Post 218 – Absent	Post 504 – Present	

A Quorum was established

### Guests in attendance:

Div 1 Cmdr Gene Toohey  
 1<sup>st</sup> Dist Cmdr Andy Lowen  
 Past Div /Dist Commander Bob Elkins  
 SAL Div 1 Cmdr Tom Arista  
 SAL Dist 5 Cmdr Lewis Elam

Cmdr Toohey spoke briefly and thanked Dist 5 and discussed how Membership is number 1 and the local level is where we implement and make change.

Commanders Corner: Cmdr Jones discussed the informal training session held in the morning and it was all about information collecting, with the biggest issue being return calls from HQ. If you want to be on the Hub masters List let Cmdr Jones know. We have 2 submissions for Law Officer of the Year. Cmdr Lowen and Cmdr Elam each took one to review and make a recommendation later in the meeting.

Motion made to wave the reading of previous meeting minutes by Walt Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup> by WS Turner No discussion – Motion approved

Pat Flores reviewed the finance report dtd 11/17/18 through 4/12/19,  
Motion made to approve by Bob Elkins 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lee Williams  
No Discussion Motion approved

### **Committee & Advisor Reports**

Membership – Alan Caesar

Reviewed the current membership report. Division 1 is short 1406 members and we are short 429 members in District 5. If each post would sign up 20 members, we would reach our goal easily. If there is any Post in need of help reaching their goal contact Alan and he will get you the help you need. Alan put out a challenge to see which branch of service can recruit the most new members. Gene Toohey stated Div. 1 was first in state in 2013 and 2018 and looking to repeat in 2019 but needs help from the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

Americanism Chair – Dennis Snow

April is children and youth month. Gold Star Day in April for mothers, spouses and National Military Brat day. May is the Anniversary of the founding of the American Legion 100 years ago. Upcoming special days are Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Flag day, Father's Day and PTS awareness day. Post should be planning their events.

Boys State – WS Turner

All money must be into District by May 10<sup>th</sup>. Orientation is May 19<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm at post 453 for parents and boys. The bus will leave Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am from Post 453 and return Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> around 5:00

Motion made by Bob Elkins for the district to set aside \$300.00 to subsidize the cost of the bus if we do not cover the cost. 2<sup>nd</sup> by WS Turner. General discussion about success of the past boys state.  
Motion approved

Constitution & By-Laws – Must be reviewed and submitted every 5 years Post 218 is from 1994.

JrROTC - WS Turner –. Last couple months 3 schools visited. Hudson, Carter and So Oak Cliff. Medals will be handed out to multiple schools. Post 504 has completed 4 of 5 schools in Mesquite. Garland has its first ROTC school and awards will be handed out May 1<sup>st</sup>. Post 453 has completed 8 of 9 school award.

Legislative – Zora McPherson -Ronald Jones discussed DEC meeting in Austin

National Security –

1 EMT Paramedic Candidate Shane Harrig ?? need to confirm name.

Motion by WS Turner to approve and 2<sup>nd</sup> by JC Miller - Motion approved

2 submittals for Law Officer of the Year.

Post 453 Brian Nolff

Post 347 Vedran Nusic

Andy Lowen and Lewis Elam reviewed the documents and made a presentation to the membership.

They recommended Brian Nolff to be submitted to represent 5<sup>th</sup> District.

Motion made and amended to approve Brian Nolff and 2<sup>nd</sup> by JC Miller and he has till June 1<sup>st</sup> to submit the remaining documentation. Motion approved.

Oratorical – Alton Brown – Commander Jones stated our candidate won Division and 3<sup>rd</sup> in state

Andy Lowen talked briefly about him running for 1<sup>st</sup> Division Commander. He will continue the fine work that Cmdr Gene Toohey and Cmdr Bobby Baker have done. He is retired and willing to work. If you need anything let him know and he will be there to help.

Public Relations – We discussed how we must change the view of the Legion being a bar.

S.A.L. Advisor - Dennis Snow SAL had a good meeting. All existing officers were re-elected except Sgt at Arms and JAG.

VA&R – Linda Weston 19<sup>th</sup> Apr VA Resource Center holding a Veterans Hiring Initiative and Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Egg Hunt at 4900 S Lancaster between 12 and 3

Department Convention – Bobby Vandebush

Recently met with Robin McPeters and reviewed the latest update about the convention. All information will be posted on the 5<sup>th</sup> District website.

Sick call, Relief and Employment –

Post 424 did a fund raiser for an ALA member with cancer

Larry Moody's dad passed away on 4/12/19

Ed Counselor is with Hospice and not doing well

Ron Barlon is in the hospital with blockage in his legs.

Service Officer – was discussed we need more information on who we can contact for various issues.

Unfinished Business – none

New Business – none

Officer Elections 2019-2021

All delegate sheets collected before the meeting were reviewed and voting strength confirmed at 67. All delegates from posts in attendance were on the floor.

Commander: WS Turner nominated Alan Caesar, no other nominations

Motion made by Bill Freauff for the Adjutant to place one vote for Alan Caesar 2<sup>nd</sup> by JC Miller

Motion approved and Alan Caesar is the new 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander

Vice Commander: Pat Flores nominated WS Turner, no other nominations  
Motion made by Alan Caesar for the Adjutant to place one vote for WS Turner 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Bowen

Chaplain: Alan Caesar nominated Nancy Beckham, no other nominations  
Motion made by WS Turner for the Adjutant to place one vote for Nancy Beckham 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Bowen

Sgt at Arms: Pat Flores nominated Joe Barrera  
Zora McPherson nominated James Moorer

Both candidates gave a brief description of their qualifications for Sgt at Arms  
Vote was taken using 4 counters for verification purposes and Joe Barrera was elected 55 to 12

Pat Flores stated she will return as Finance Officer  
James Moorer will accept position of Assistant Sgt at Arms  
Joe Johnson will stay on as Adjutant

Good of the Legion: Division convention 4/27  
Honor flight will be coming into Love field 4/13 at 9:30 for anyone that would like to attend.

Closing prayer  
POW/MIA Retired  
Colors Retired  
Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm