

## American Legion 5th District, Department of Texas Meeting June 24th, 2018 Held at Post 597

District Commander Ronald Jones opened the meeting in regular order with the posting of the Colors and placing of the POW/MIA flag at 2:10. 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 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	Present	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 Bernard Aderholt	Absent	27. School Awards Chairman	Vacant
13. Americanism Chair Dennis Snow	Present	28. VA&R Chairman D.C. Jones	Absent
14. Baseball Chairman Joe Senones	Present		
15. Boy Scout Chairman	Vacant		

Roll call by Post:

Post 23 – Present	Post 275 – Present	Post 511 – Present
Post 53 – Present	Post 292 – Present	Post 581 – Absent
Post 81 – Present	Post 368 – Absent	Post 597 – Present
Post 111 – Present	Post 424 – Present	Post 656 – Absent
Post 124 – Absent	Post 453 – Present	Post 802 – Excused
Post 184 – Absent	Post 504 – Present	Post 855 – Absent
Post 218 – Absent	Post 507 – Present	

A Quorum was established

### Guests in attendance:

Gary Smith Division Vice Commander, Past District 5 Commander  
Don Cecil 5th District Chaplain Emeritus  
Lewis Elam SAL 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander

Motion made to wave the reading of previous meeting minutes by Mary East 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alton Brown  
No discussion – Motion approved

Pat Flores reviewed the finance report dtd Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> through June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018:  
Motion to approve by Bill Freauff 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennis Snow.  
Discussion still some outstanding bills for Boys State – Motion approved

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Alan Caesar discussed membership: Goal is 2913.

The following Post were at 100% or better – Post 23, 292, 424, 111, 507, 184, 53, 802.

The following Post were at 90% or better 218, 504, 511, 597

The big jump in post membership was due to 345 transfers: Post 23 – 31 transfers, Post 111 – 32 transfers, Post 218 – 32 transfers, and Post 504 with 58 transfers.

Question was asked about Post 124, 347 and 855

Post 347 has an active Certification Officer and currently has 30 members

Post 124 was on the chopping block but is now going to be an all-female post and currently has 10 committed members. Waiting on paperwork.

Post 855 is up in the air and only has 8 members.

1st Division is in 1<sup>st</sup> place for membership and the Department Commander gave his coin to all post that achieved 100% membership.

## **Committee Reports**

Americanism Chair – Dennis Snow

July 4<sup>th</sup> is time to remember our fallen vets. Place flags at the graves and be sure to pickup at sunset.

July 12<sup>th</sup> Medal of Honor was instituted in 1862

August schools start back up so it is time to get back in there and discuss Legion programs such as Oratorical, Boys State, etc.

Aug 7<sup>th</sup> Purple Heart was established in 1782

September is the Legion Disaster Preparedness month

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> A day of remembrance for the disaster in 2001

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> American Legion Charter was established

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in September is POW/MIA day.

Baseball –Joe Senones

We have had Legion baseball in the 5<sup>th</sup> District for 6 years and won a championship. Unfortunately we have lost the management team due to work, moving out of the area, etc. So for now we do not have Legion Baseball in the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

Scouting – vacant – none

Boys State – Bob Kaminski - none

Community Service – none

Constitution & By-Laws - Gary Smith

Post 218, 23 and 581 need to update their Constitution and By Laws.

Post 504 has submitted waiting for approval.

If anyone needs help updating their C&BL's let us know. There is a template online that makes it very easy.

JrROTC - WS Turner

Post 292 has partnered with their local JrROTC to replace the flags at the VA Hospital.

Legislative – Zora McPherson - none

National Security – Cmdr Jones stated Law Enforcement Officer of the Year has been received by Department.

Oratorical – Alton Brown

The District sent a student all the way to National. It will soon be time to start thinking about contacting the schools.

Public Relations – Question was asked about procedure for filing a complaint against a post. All complaints must be documented to the District.

Remember Department Convention in San Antonio is the start of the 100 year celebration.

S.A.L. - Gary Smith

Commander swore in Ed Mosely Post 511 as District Chaplain.

Legionnaires can be dual members. It is our duty to help the SAL and one way is by being a dual member. The qualification for membership in the SAL is by lineage since 2003 not just 2 generations. Membership in the SAL is a way of honoring you forefather/mothers.

VA&R –

You can set up a booth at the VA if you clear it in advance and hand out membership information.

Dept distributed the report from the VA&R council. If you would like to receive these reports make sure you are on the hubmaster distribution list.

School awards – none

ALR – Bernard Aderholt - none

Sick call – None

Service Officer – none

Unfinished Business - none

New Business –

Pat Flores made a motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by WS Turner that 5<sup>th</sup> District donate \$250.00 to Jeff Perkins for campaign expenses.

Discussion – Is it legal, Yes. Motion approved

Gary Smith – NEC Resolution All post officers must have DD214 or other document on file.

A new form will be issued for submittal to Department. We will have a grace period this year but will be going into effect next year. Not sure if it applies to the SAL

MyLegion.org requires a change of password every 6 months.

Good of the Legion:

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

Gary Smith - July is the halfway point of the 2018 membership year. We will be getting 2019 cards in July. If you get new members up to December bring them on as 2018 members as they are eligible for LIT (Legion Insurance Trust) and if you sign them up as 2019 members this does not go into effect till January 1, 2019.

Bill Freauff – End of year for the yearbook. If you have anything for July 4<sup>th</sup> that will be that last chance to get it included. Take pictures and forward to Bill.

Following the meeting we will be taking District Officers pictures

Gary Smith - membership/awards at Department. In order to qualify for these awards you need 3 items complete to be eligible for post awards. Post C&BL, Post Certification and CPR.

Ronald Jones - 7/11 is the kickoff for the Convention. May need some volunteers for committee meetings if you would like to volunteer let us know.

Gary Smith – Please provide me with any Commander or President changes so the website can be updated. This applies to all organizations at your post. You can send the information by using the link [5thdist.hubmaster@gmail.com](mailto:5thdist.hubmaster@gmail.com) on the webpage.

Closing prayer and meeting adjourned at 3:13 pm