

**Minutes of
American Legion 22nd District, Department of Texas
District Executive Meeting (February 10, 2019)**

22nd District Executive Committee meeting called to order by Commander Joseph Thomas at 1400 hours at Post 654 3105 Campbell Road, Houston, Texas.

Opening ceremony was conducted and lead by District Commander.

Roll Call conducted by the Adjutant. Officers excused Gregg Treacy and David Saucillo. Officers absent Janie Garrett. Posts not represented 316, 319, 391, 594 and 596

Minutes of the last meeting; Motion by Dan King to dispense with the reading of the minutes from last month's meeting and accept them as written and posted on website. Seconded by Butch Sparks. Voted on and passed by majority.

Introduction of Past Commanders and Guests; National Executive Committeeman Butch Sparks, Past Department Commanders Butch/Lynn Sparks, Past Division Commanders Lynn Sparks, Dan King, Past District Commanders Lynn Sparks, Butch Sparks, Dan King, Juan Torres, and Jimmy Mitchell. Guests present were Past 1st Division Commander Bobby Baker and Past 4th Division Commander Roger Folmar. Both Legionnaires are candidates for 2019 2020 Department Vice Commander. Commander Thomas gave time to each to make speech to the DEC concerning their candidacy for the high Office of Department Vice Commander.

Officer Reports;

Vice Commander Woodstrom reported on the membership status of the District. He provided a written report which will be attached to the minutes for future referencing. He challenged each Post to use the 345 listings that he provided for each Post to get the membership % up. He also reminded all of the March Campaign set by the National Commander, the Buddy Check, 18 March. Designed to get members current and active.

The Adjutant requested confirmation from all District attendees, if they were receiving the Monthly Dispatches. All acknowledged that they were receiving the notice.

Finance Officer (Lynn Sparks) provided a Treasurer's report. Motion to accept the report as given by Felix White. Seconded by James King. Voted on passed by majority.

Judge Advocate Butch Sparks informed the DEC of the requirements for updating Post By-Laws, the newly imposed requirement for all Officers at District level and up to be current ALEI graduates, and that violation of this requirement will result in lost of position. Likewise he reminded the DEC that member qualification (DD214) is an absolute requirements for membership.

Chaplain Harvey announced the death of three (3) Post 490 members this past month. He challenged that Legionnaires to keep tabs on the sick.

Historian King No Report

Sgt-at Arms McGuire reported 25 District Legionnaires and two (2) guests. He turned in the rooster to the Adjutant to be attached to the February minutes for future referencing.

Committee Reports

Americanism Chairman Torres provided a written report to be filed with the minutes for future reference.

Boy Scouts Chairman Commander Thomas reported on an Eagle Scout project and how inexpensive to the Post that these projects are. He asked if there were other similar projects out there. Post 490 reported on a project in Friendswood, TX, Post 654 noted its program is active, and Post 164 on its Flag Disposal Box initiative. Commander Thomas also reported on another Scout project where benches in one of the Coast Guard High Water Rescue Vehicles was in need of repair, was used as the project for a scout working on his Eagle Scout project.

Boy State Chairman Mitchell reported that there is a date change to Boys State Orientation. The change is **April 27, 2019 vs May 4, 2019**. The location is still Post 521, 2221 Preston Pasadena, TX at 10am.

Constitution & By-Laws Chairman Sparks reported that majority rules as opposed to 2/3 majority rules constitutes a distinctive difference, and must be noted as such. When Post prepare and update this document, they must be in compliance with National and Department guidelines. Commander Thomas stated that he is looking for Posts 77, 316 and 594 Commanders to update him on the status of their documents, and that these Posts documents are to be emailed to District Commander and Department Judge Advocate as soon as possible.

Legislature Chairman Commander Thomas informed the DEC that there have been some changes over veteran family issues and they will be addressed at the State Capitol in March.

National Security Chairman McQueen reported on the initiative launched by local Posts (521) and Houston Food Bank to support Homeland Security personnel (Precent 8 Constable Vehicle) during the government shutdown. Legionnaire, Jeff Perkins provided a truck load of food to support the effort and there was a truck load of food provided by a Boy Scout unit as well and donations from USO. Chairman McQueen also reported on the one million dollar contribution by American Legion, National Headquarters to Coast Guard personnel to assist with financial obligations.

Oratorical Chairman Dan King reported that the Department Contest will be held February 18, 2019 hosted by Post 178. The contest will be held in the Frisco ISD building, Ballroom, at 9am, 5515 Olvio Drive, Frisco TX. 75035.

SAL Chairman Dan King submitted a written report on the current status of the units and Squadrons in the District. It will be filed with this month's minutes for future referencing.

VA&R Chairman James King reported on the status of upcoming actions on two V A initiatives the Eligibility Act and the Mission Act. He will be providing reference guidelines for all to source for individual information.

Training Chairman Butch Sparks requested input from membership on training desires for Convention agenda. Commander suggested that one on the sessions be "How to Conduct a Post Meeting" the protocols for the meeting.

Webmaster Woodstrom reported the change he initiated to our host provider. He was authorized to change Go Daddy to Host pay at an additional annual cost of \$10.00. Motion by Robert Harvey to pay the additional cost of \$10.00. Seconded by Butch Sparks. Vote Passed. Webmaster also requested ideas on how to use our site.

Hubmaster Sparks requests input and that any and all information submitted will be distributed promptly.

Popcorn Chairman Pridmore, asked the District after the current funds are dispensed, will there be any more funds forthcoming. In light of the mixed communication at the VA, he was asked to get written documentation on the direction the VA is taking with this issue, and report at the March meeting.

Post Reports

Post 164 reported that they will be conducting their 1st Rider business, selecting Officers and holding their 1st extended family combined meeting.

Post 521 reported on the April 13th District Convention. The Orientation for Boys State now April 27 2019 at 10am. Bus Waiver forms will be posted on website soon.

Centennial Celebration March 9 2019 all day post 490. Chili Competition with \$25.00 registration entry fee. There is also 100 vintage weapons to be raffled off. District 22 has weapon #46 to be raffled off. The drawing is March 9th sometime in the afternoon.

Siegmund Fund; Commander addressed this issue and promised literature and updates at next DEC.

Comments on VA suicides increasing and in parking lots, a result of the needed help not being made readily available.

April 27th Adjutant Meeting TBA. Commander will reset and get the word out on specifics.

Training; Department training forthcoming at \$25.00 each. Commander noted that there is \$20,000.00 appropriated for the program. Due to some concerns about training a resolution from the District is forthcoming to Department.

Unfinished Business No Report

New Business

Motion by Butch Sparks to have District Commander submit a letter to Post 594 to update Post documents within 30 days, and ready to submit to Department. Negligence on the part of Post 594 to comply will result in District starting actions to seek Department guidance to close Post 594 due to non-compliance. Seconded by Harry Woodstrom. Vote passed.

Motion to Advertise outside our website by Legionnaire Mc Queen. Seconded by Sgt-at-Arms McGuire. As a result of the discussion a committee be formed to look into ways to promote media exposure for the American Legion. The Committee members are Al McQueen, of Post 521, Andy Valadez, of Post 77 and Harry Woodstrom of Post 164.

Motion by Lynn Sparks to reimburse Harry Woodstrom for the website expenses that he incurred (approx., \$129.00). Seconded by Butch Sparks. Vote passed.

Good of the Legion;

Bobby Baker Past 1st Division Commander, candidate for Department Vice Commander 2019-2020

Roger Folmar Past 4th Division Commander, candidate for Department Vice Commander 2019-2020

Both were given time to address the DEC. "Per 22nd District By Laws we are not allowed to endorse any candidate outside the District."

Commander commented on the training program by Department and his discontent with its current applications. "How to conduct Training" He also handed out certificates to participants that attended the District training ie Posts 52, 416, 490, and 521. He also reminded the DEC that we did a good job last year identifying the post to host the monthly DEC. We need to do this for the coming year.

May 18th Armed Forces Day event Auxiliary Barbeque

Commander James King informed the DEC of the passing of the wife of VA Veteran Benefit representative Wolf.

DEC adjourned 15:38 hours