

22nd District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes August 18, 2024

The 22nd District Executive Committee Meeting was held on August 18, 2024, at American Legion Post 521 in Pasadena Texas.

District Commander Terry Contella called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies were conducted in due form.

Commander Contella introduced the State Commander Tom Marty who brought greetings to the body.

Commander Contella then acknowledged Past NECman Butch Sparks, Past State Commander Lynn Sparks, Past Division & 22nd District Commander Jimmy Mitchell, Past District Commanders Juan Torres, Harry Woodstrom, Jim McGuire, and Joseph Thomas, Past District Commander, and current SAL Commander for the 2nd Division.

Roll Call of Officers and Posts

All District Officers were in attendance. The district still has vacancies for a Service Officer and Public Relations Officer. All posts were represented except Post 596. According to Judge Advocate Jimmy Mitchell we had a quorum.

2024 Membership Awards:

Past 22nd District Commander Jim McGuire passed out numerous membership awards to Posts in the District accompanied by the current Department Commander Tom Marty. It should be noted that all posts in the district received awards including 100% membership and retention awards. Jim also presented a 100% District membership banner to be attached to the district colors. District Historian Hernandez took photos of each post receiving awards. These photos were then forwarded to the individual posts by the district adjutant.

Officer Reports:

Adjutant Butch Sparks informed the body to be careful when responding to emails they receive since a lot of members are receiving fraudulent emails disguised as coming from a fellow Legionnaire. Commander Marty stated

that the source may be the new on-line blue book on our Department Website. He said the Department is investigating this and looking into a plan to require password access to the information.

Finance Officer Lynn Sparks read the District Finance Report (Atch1) Motion by Lynn to accept the report, second by J. T. Thomas. Motion accepted.

Judge Advocate Jimmy Mitchell had no report.

Chaplain Bruce Pettengill informed the body that there will be a 4 Chaplains ceremony on February 15, 2024, in Katy. Details to follow.

Historian Hector Hernandez reported that he is working with posts to get information on their history so he can work on the District Yearbook.

Sergeant -At-Arms J. T. Thomas said there were twenty-five members in attendance. (Atch 2)

Vice Commander Robert Harvey provided an update on the District Membership. (Atch 3)

Commander Terry Contella informed the body that he will be visiting posts and that he will just drop in.

Post Reports:

Post 52 – Member Ed Ruhnke - No Report

Post 77- Post Commander Hernandez read his report to the body. (Atch 4)

Post 164- Post Commander Krum informed the body that the Post will host a Service Officer Training course given by Mike Lacy on October 19, 2024, from 9 to 3 p.m. Lunch will be served. To RSVP contact Sandy at commander@legionpost164katytx/org.

Post 319- Post Adjutant Sherry Thomas read her report to the body. (Atch 5)

Post 391 – Post Commander Gonzales stated that a few post members were without power for 2 weeks. Post supports Fisher House and Sea Cadets and Bingo at the VA hospital.

Post 416 – Post Commander James King – No report

Post 472 – Past Post Commander Juan Torres stated that his post has provided honors to five funerals including flag folding ceremonies.

Post 490 – Post Commander Rene Sanchez highlighted the post's activities. (Atch 6)

Post 521 – Post Commander Robert Harvey highlighted the post's activities. (Atch 7)

Post 654 – Post Commander Hector Giron – No report

Committee Reports:

Boys State; Oratorical; Webmaster – Chairman Woodstrom provided a verbal overview of these important topics (Atch 8) Harry also provided the body the website for our 22nd District. It is www.legiondist22.com. Also please check the web site to make sure the information in your post is correct.

Americanism/School Awards – Chairman Jimmy Mitchell asked the posts to see him after the meeting and provide him their post points of contacts for these important programs.

Advisor to the S.A.L. – Advisor Jimmy Mitchell provided an overview of the 22nd Squadron's data. (Atch 9)

POW/MIA – Chairman Hector Hernandez highlighted the current status of this program. (Atch 10) He also invited posts to attend the National Cemetery Council meetings held the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Heritage Funeral Home which is located adjacent to the Houston National Cemetery.

National Security- Chairman Alonzo McQueen provided an overview of the current status of our National Guard that is being utilized around the world. (Atch 11)

Community Service – Chairperson Sherry Thomas provided an overview of community activities by posts that have provided her input for her report. (Atch 12)

Scouting – Chairman J.T. Thomas informed the body of the available 2nd Division Scholarship for \$1000 that is given out to a Scout each year. Asked the body to contact him for more details.

Disaster Preparedness – Chairman J. T. Thomas stated that we should be doing more to help our veterans during disasters such as the Hurricane which hit our area last month. He stated that additional training will be available in September and that we need to initiate fund raising for this important program.

Houston Community College (HCC)– Post 77 Vice Commander Lacy Woods informed the body that HCC wants to work with the district in hosting Oratorical contests or other events.

Unfinished Business

ALR Liaison – District Commander Contella appointed Earl McLearen to fill the 22nd District liaison position for the American Legion Riders. Butch Sparks moved to accept this appointment, second by Jim McGuire. Motion carried.

Nursing Scholarship Committee – Finance Officer Lynn Sparks stated that the district needs to update the subject Committee. J.T. Thomas moved that the committee members be Harry Woodstrom, Lynn Sparks, and Sherry Thomas. Second by Butch Sparks. Motion carried.

Disaster Relief Fund Committee – Finance Officer Lynn Sparks. stated that the district needs to update the subject Committee. J.T. Thomas moved that the committee members be Lynn Sparks, Jimmy Mitchell, J.T. Thomas, and Butch Sparks. Second by Harry Woodstrom. Motion carried.

New Business

Harry Woodstrom made a motion to reorganize and restart the 22nd District Coffee tour. Second By Lynn Sparks. Discussion: Since the district has a lot of new members the purpose and overview of what a coffee tour consisted of was highlighted. Motion Carried.

Harry Woodstrom moved that the Coffee Tour be used for a fund raiser for our Oratorical fund. Second by Jim McGuire. Discussion: It was noted that the district has a zero-fund balance for this important program and the district provides a \$1000 scholarship to the District Oratorical winner each year.

Butch Sparks moved to amend the motion to name Harry Woodstrom, J.T. Thomas and Robert Harvey be the Coffee Tour organizers. Second by Jimmy Mitchell.

Amendment and original motions were approved.

Good of The Legion:

Commander Contella said our next D.E.C. will be on November 17, 2024, at Post 164 starting at 2 p.m.

Jimmy Mitchell discussed the Department Drill Team competition and that there were no participants this year. We need to work to have one from our District next year.

Post 164 Commander Sandy Krum said that his post is sending out copies of the Post newsletter to 345 members within ten miles of the Post. So far nine of those members have transferred to Post 164.

Closing Ceremonies held in due form.

Butch Sparks

22nd District Adjutant

Enclosures