

5TH DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION
19 MARCH 2016

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Commander Larry Taylor
- 2) Sergeant-at-Arms (Comrade Bill Craig) posted the colors
- 3) Prayer by the Bob Elkins
- 4) Sergeant-at-Arms draped the MIA flag
- 5) Membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance
- 6) Membership recited the Preamble of the American Legion
- 7) District Sergeant-at-Arms (Bill Craig) posted the colors
- 8) Roll call of Officers and Posts revealed a quorum was present.
 - a. District Commander Larry Taylor Present
 - b. Vice Commander Ronnie Jones Present
 - c. Finance Officer Pat Sansom Present
 - d. Adjutant Alan H. Caesar Present
 - e. Chaplain Edward Kownslar **Absent**
 - f. Judge Advocate Sam Underwood Present
 - g. Service Officer Zach Fresesquez Present
 - h. Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Craig present
 - i. VA & R D.C. Jones Present
 - j. Americanism **Position Vacant**
 - k. Baseball Chair **Position Vacant**
 - l. Boy Scout Chair **Positon Vacant**
 - m. Boys State Chair Robert Kaminski Present
 - n. Community Service **Positon Vacant**
 - o. Const. & By Laws Gary Smith Present
- 9) Roll call by Post revealed the following:
 - a. Post 23 – Present
 - b. Post 53 – Present
 - c. Post 81 – Present
 - d. Post 111 – Present
 - e. Post 124 – Absent
 - f. Post 184 – Absent
 - g. Post 218 – Present
 - 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 – Absent
 - p. Post 581 – Absent
 - q. Post 597 – Present
 - r. Post 656 – Absent
 - s. Post 802 – Absent
 - t. Post 855 – Absent
- 10) Pat Sansom our Finance Officer needed to leave early. Subsequently, Bill Craig motioned and Bobby Vanderbush 2nd a motion to allow reading of the finance report. The motion carried by majority vote. After hearing the report Alton Brown motioned and W.S. Turner 2nd a motion to accept the finance report pending audit. The motion carried by majority vote.
- 11) Bill Craig motioned and Jim Perry 2nd the motion to elect and fill the high office(s) of 5th District Commander and 5th District Vice-Commander. The motioned carried by majority vote.
- 12) Bill Craig nominated Larry Taylor for the high officer of 5th District Commander and moved that the Adjutant cast one vote for Larry Taylor. Bill Freauff motioned and Bill Craig 2nd a motion nominations be suspended. Motion carried by majority vote.
- 13) Bill Freauff nominated Ronnie Jones for the high officer of 5th District Vice Commander and moved the Adjutant cast one vote for Ronnie Jones. Bill Craig motioned and Bill Freauff 2nd a motion that nominations be suspended. Motion carried by majority vote.

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- 14) Commander Taylor asked for delegates to attend the National Convention. No one volunteered to act as a delegate to the National Convention.
- 15) David Harvey addressed the body concerning membership and renewals. Post transmittal should be expeditiously submitted to the 5th District Vice Commander. The 5th District is currently in 7th place and 464 renewals short of our goal. We have only achieved 83.64% of our goal for 2016. The following Post are to be commended for their hard work in retention and recruitment: 581-105%; 424-100%; 453-96.4%; 504-91.80%; 507-91.59%. Our goal should be actively recruiting and retaining new and younger members.
- 16) Joe Senones addressed the membership regarding American Legion Baseball in the 5th District. He can be reached @ 214-281-1174 or via email (j.senones@hotmail.com). The goal is sponsor 10 teams. Parents are required to pay \$150.00 per child. Post 597 currently supports and sponsor's American Legion Baseball. AL Harris (Special Guest at our last meeting) wants to expand American Legion Baseball into other cities within Dallas county (Richardson, Irving, Carrollton, etc.). He is asking our help supporting this effort and these new teams. His organization is hosting a 5 State Regional in Carrollton, TX. this year. This endeavor will not financially encumber us (the American Legion) at all. Mr. Harris stated he intends to approach his organization (the National Baseball League) for financial assistance to sponsor American Legion Baseball. His success with that endeavor would be a win-win situation for both organizations.
- 17) Gary Smith reported on changes and updates to our By-Laws and Constitution:
- By-Laws & Constitution last updated in 2006;
 - added the phrase "In accordance with" to align our By-Laws and Constitution with the Departments;
 - added the position of Historian;
 - change in Article 5 to include past 5th District Commander;
 - changes in Section 2;
 - changes in Article 8 to include holding at least one (1) and no more than two (2) District Convention meetings
 - Gary has highlighted copies of the By-Laws and Constitution changes.
 - W.S. Turner motioned and Gary Smith 2nd a motion to accept the changes to the By-Laws and Constitution. The motion carried by majority vote.
- 18) D.C. Jones chair of the VA&R committee rendered no report.
- 19) Gary Smith rendered the following report on the SAL.
- District SAL Constitution and By-Law were approved
 - Post 184 did not have any members renew which affects the status of the SAL at that Post
 - There is not an American Legion Post in Rowlett with an active charter. Plan in motion to revitalize the Post and legitimize the SAL.
- 20) Chair of the ALR rendered no report.
- 21) Sick Call: Angela Herndon lost her boyfriend and his funeral services are today; Gary Poplin had Knee surgery; Larry Taylor had cataract surgery.
- 22) There was not any unfinished business.
- 23) It was suggested we explore the feasibility of having an American Legion Booth at the State Fair of Texas. The opportunity to educate and inform the public about the American Legion could potentially add to membership within the 5th district. Unfortunately, the cut-off for applying for booth space at the State Fair was March.
- 24) The next 5th District meeting will be held on 22 May 2016 @ post 504.

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- 25) Good of the Legion – The American Legion Riders of Love Field Post 453 have raised close to \$400,00.00 for the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) of Dallas since designating the VRC as our primary charity in 2013. With our 4th Annual Homeless Veterans Benefit Run on September 17th, 2016 we'll be on our way to ½ Million dollars for the veterans of the Dallas area.”
- 26) Jeff Perkins is building the Vet Wall to honor vet from 2000 up to the present. April 2nd will be the first showing at Post 597. On 28 May will be the Rowlett showing.
- 27) Post 802 had electrical problems and the Love Field Post lent their time, labor and expertise to help rewire Post 802.
- 28) Closing prayer was given.
- 29) Bill Craig retired the POW-MIA flag.
- 30) Bill Craig retired the colors.
- 31) Meeting was adjourned.