

## **5th District Spring Convention Meeting Minutes**

**March 24, 2012**

### **5th District Convention Business:**

Meeting Called to Order at 1408 hrs. Opening ceremonies were held. Chaplain Don Cecil gave the opening prayer and Commander Perkins led the Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble.

### **Minutes:**

A motion was made by Past District Commander Aderholt to dispense with the reading of minutes. Motion was seconded, and carried.

A motion was made and seconded to deviate from regular format to introduce guests. Motion carried.

### **Introduction of guests:**

Department Adjutant Bill West

1<sup>st</sup> Division Commander Linda Reed

12<sup>th</sup> District Commander Al Robart

Past Division Commander and 2 times Past District Commander Bob Elkins

Past District Commander Bernard Aderholt

SAL 1<sup>st</sup> Division Commander Steve Davis

Past SAL Detachment Commander Ed Magers

Commander Perkins asked the Sgt. at Arms to escort Commander Robart to the podium to address the assembly.

Commander Robart thanked Commander Perkins and the 5<sup>th</sup> District for the opportunity to announce his candidacy for 1<sup>st</sup> Division Commander, Department of Texas, and ask for the 5<sup>th</sup> District's support.

Commander Perkins introduced Ed Magers to report on the Boys State program. Last year was one of the most successful years for the program with approximately 830 boys attending the program. They would like to see more this year.

Post 453 will have a bus ready to take the kids to Boys State. The deadline for applications is April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Boys State program will run from Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup>. Tuition is \$275.00, transportation will be \$50.00 and \$50.00 spending money.

SAL 1<sup>st</sup> Division Commander Steve Davis addressed the assembly on the SAL activities.

The meeting resumed regular business with roll call.

### **Roll Call:**

8 officers were in attendance.

The following 13 Posts:

23, 81, 111, 184, 218, 368, 424, 453, 504, 507, 511, 597, 802 were represented.

### **Finance Report:**

The Finance report made.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the finance report as read.

Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Membership Report:**

Vice Commander Smith asked all present if they had an application for membership on them. Sgt. at Arms reported all present did have an application on them.

Vice Commander Smith started by congratulating the top 3 Posts for membership efforts. Dallas-511 w/ 91.23%, Dallas-656 w/ 88.89%, Carrolton-597 w/ 87.86%.

The 5<sup>th</sup> district is in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division trailing the 12<sup>th</sup> district. The 4<sup>th</sup> District currently leads the 1<sup>st</sup> Division.

Post 453 turned in 2 renewals.

Post 81 turned in 3 renewals.

Post 511 turned in 2 renewals.

### **Unfinished Business:**

District Commander Perkins reported on Post 597's Dart Tournament. The tournament did very well. \$500.00 was raised for the R2R program.

### **Chaplain's Report:**

Chaplain Don Cecil reported from April 1 2011 to February 29 2012. A copy of the Chaplain's full report has been filed with the District Commander.

### **Americanism:**

Bob Elkins reminded the Posts that ROTC Awards are fast approaching. The Posts need to contact the ROTC Commanders for their candidates for awards.

### **New Business:**

The District Finance Officer Pat Sansom that the District cover the expenses for the convention. Motion was seconded and carried.

Finance Officer Sansom made a motion to set up a \$500.00 convention fund to advance to the hosting Post for future conventions. Motion was seconded and carried.

Commander Perkins reported on the Department's planned redistricting of the Department of Texas. Under the new planned redistricting, the 5<sup>th</sup> District will drop to 15 Posts from its current 20 Posts. The following Posts 218 Irving, 597 Carrollton, 368 Richardson, 53 Dallas, 23 Garland. They will be moved to the 13<sup>th</sup> or the 4<sup>th</sup> Districts.

This has been proposed to get a better handle on membership. A company was hired to do a survey of all the Veterans in Texas. They say that this will put approx. 77,000 Veterans in each District. They unfortunately didn't stipulate if this reflects American Legion eligible Veterans and not just all Veterans. Under this new plan, Department would be expecting each District to form a new Post annually. This plan will also have a profound impact on the current make of the Divisions (the 3<sup>rd</sup> District which is in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division

would be moved to South of Houston). Department hasn't addressed how the Divisions will be formed. The general consensus is that this plan leaves too many unanswered questions.

A vote will be held at the Department Convention on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. This is not a vote the District Commanders can make for the Districts. Each Post would have to send a delegate to the convention for their votes to count. The number of votes each Post has is determined by the membership. The larger the Post the more votes they will have. If a Post has 15 members they would have 2 votes. They get 1 additional vote for every major fraction of 25 members above 15. For your vote to count you must be registered by 0800hrs at the convention and be on the floor for the vote.

A motion was made by Bob Elkins for the District to cover the \$25.00 registration fee for the Posts in the District that are unable to cover the registration fee. Motion was seconded. A discussion of the motion followed that if the Post fails to show up then they would owe the District the \$25.00 registration fee.

The motion was voted on and carried.

The Department has set aside a block of rooms. The Delegates will have to reserve the room by June 29<sup>th</sup> to take advantage of the \$95.00+tax room rates. After June 29<sup>th</sup> rooms will be \$229.00+tax per night.

### **Good of the Legion:**

Commander Perkins read a letter from SSgt. Bill Thomas, USAF, thanking Post 453 and the 5<sup>th</sup> District for their hospitality during stay in the DFW area while on R&R from his deployment to Afghanistan.

The District Adjutant Bill Craig read a resolution from HEB Post 349 endorsing the candidacy of Robert L. (Bob) Roberts for the office of Department Commander, Department of Texas, for the year 2012-2013.

The District Adjutant Bill Craig read a resolution from Post 624 Mansfield TX endorsing the candidacy of 12<sup>th</sup> District Commander Al Robart for the Officer of Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Department of Texas, for the year 2012-2013. A motion was made that this resolution was read for

informational purposes only due to the District having already voted to endorse another candidate at a previous session.

Commander John T. Stinson of Irving 218 reported on the Honor Flight Program. The program provides WW2 Veterans the chance to travel to and tour the National monuments in Washington DC.

Convention Report:

The 2013 Department Convention will be held at Irving Post 218. Since the 5<sup>th</sup> District is hosting the convention, the District will be holding a number of fund raisers in preparation for this.

A motion was made and seconded for \$50.00 for a full page ad in the 2012 Department Convention handout.

The District Commander will need volunteers to attend several meeting at the Department Convention in Houston.

Shuffleboard Tournament:

Post 504 will be hosting a District Shuffleboard Tournament on April 28<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested to hold a fund raiser to help the Post defer the cost of sending delegates to Department Convention.

District Chaplin Don Cecil led the closing prayer.  
Assistant District Sgt. at Arms Jim Swafford retired the colors.

Commander Perkins closed the meeting at 1523 hrs.

Submitted;  
Bill Craig  
Adjutant, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Department of Texas