

**American Legion 5th District,
Department of Texas
Meeting
9 March, 2014
Held at Post 368**

District Commander Gary Smith opened the meeting in regular order with the posting of the Colors and placing of the POW/MIA flag at 1400. Don Cecil, 5th District Chaplain Emeritus gave the opening prayer. Commander Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion.

Roll Call:

Gary Smith, 5th District Commander – Present & Presiding
Larry Taylor, 5th District Vice Commander – Present
Marico Jefferson, 5th District Adjutant – Excused
Pat Sansom, 5th District Finance Officer – Present
Don Cecil, 5th District Chaplain Emeritus – Present
5th District Service Officer - Vacant
Gary Poplin, 5th District Judge Advocate – Present
Cyndi Miller, 5th District Historian – Absent
5th District Sergeant at Arms – Vacant
Bill Craig, 5th District Asst. Sergeant at Arms – Present

Post in attendance:

23, 53, 81, 111, 184, 368, 424, 453, 504, 511, 597, 802

Post not in attendance:

124, 218, 275, 292, 507, 581, 656, 855

A quorum was established.

Previous Meeting's Minutes:

A motion was made by Jeff Perkins to accept the minutes of the previous session as posted on the district web page, seconded by Bill Craig – motion carried.

Guest Introductions:

Jeff Perkins, 1st Division Commander; Gary Paul, 1st Division SAL Commander; Paul Secor, 5th District SAL Commander; Bob Elkins, past 1st Division and 2 time past 5th District Commander.

Finance report:

The District Finance Officer Pat Sansom gave the District finance report. A motion was made by Gary Poplin to accept the finance report as read subject to audit, seconded by Alton Brown – motion carried.

Commanders Reports:

The Commander gave a report of his activities since the last District meeting and his plans going forward.

Committee Reports:**Membership Report:**

District Vice Commander Larry Taylor began by asking if all present could produce an application for membership.

The 5th District is currently in 1st place for membership turn-ins in the Department with 98.3%. Need 50 members to make 100%. Last time the 5th District was number 1 in the state was 1991. Post 275 is in 1st place within the District with 166.67%. Ten Posts at 100% or better.

Post 23, 111 and 802 turned in memberships.

The Commander's goal is to be at 100% by March 31.

Americanism Report:

Dennis Snow provided update on the Veterans Day parade and the fact that the parade committee wants to limit the number of entries to 150 and

would like the veteran groups to consolidate as much as possible. Dennis will submit applications to each of the Posts.

Baseball Report:

Larry Taylor stated team registration is underway and logons and passwords from last year can be used. Larry offered his assistance to get teams started.

Boys State:

Gary Smith stated that Wynne Transport has been selected to provide a bus and deposit arrangements are being made to secure a reservation for 1 bus holding 55 persons. The 4th District will be reserving their own bus this year.

Boy Scout Report:

No report available.

Constitution & Bylaws Report:

Post 453 is reviewing their CBLs. Post 292 is still working on their CBLs.

National Security Report:

Nothing new to report.

VA&R Report:

Chairman Don Harrison moved away from the area and had to step down as Chairman. Commander Smith stated that new VA ID cards are being mailed out April through June. Flag retirement ceremony at Veterans Resource Center on May 17 at Noon. Gary Poplin needs truck to take flags to flag retirement ceremonies. Call him if you need flags to retire.

JROTC Report:

Chairman absent, but the Commander provided an update. Order your medals now. Post 504 will be covering all Mesquite high schools. Post 453 is sponsoring 11 schools in Irving and Dallas. Skyline will be picked up by Post 53. Garland has no JROTC schools, but Post 23 is willing to pick up several that are close by that are not within Garland. Post 184 will sponsor 2 schools in Grand Prairie. Post 111 sponsors 2 schools.

SAL Advisor Report:

Larry Taylor advised that the 5th District SAL Commander is visiting the various Squadrons. District is in 2nd in the state and is at 83.9%. They need 62 renewals to make 100%. 1st Division SAL Commander Gary Paul gave his greetings. 5th District SAL is having a raffle – get your tickets. Drawing at 1st Division Convention on May 31.

ALR Advisor Report:

Chairman absent – no update available.

Sick Call Report:

Bill Freauff asked to have his brother remembered, he passed away yesterday.

Steve Davis' wife is not do any better and moving her to hospice care.

Bill Craig's finacee had a stroke, but is doing better.

Mary Easy stated that Bill Godfrey's daughter was recently diagnosed with cancer.

Don Cecil reminded everyone of his availability and to bring names of deceased members to the District Spring Convention on April 12.

Service Officer Report:

Don Harrison moved away from the area and had to step down as Chairman. Nothing new to report.

Unfinished business:

No unfinished business to discuss.

New Business:

Open positions available – Service Officer, SAA, and Chaplain. Motion by Gary Poplin to backfill the SAA position with Bill Craig, the current Asst. SAA. Motion seconded by Randy Buhler and motion carried.

Committee Chair positions available are Boys State, Oratorical and VA&R.

Post Data Report needs to be turned.

IRS form 8822-B needs to be turned in by March 1. Those who have not turned one in should do so immediately.

Gary Poplin stated that DFW National Cemetery flags go up on May 17, Memorial Day ceremony starts at 11:00 am on May 26.

Commander Smith reviewed the PUFL program.

Good of The Legion (Post Roll Call):

Post 23 St. Patrick on Saturday; 368 big feed every Sat. Night and every Tuesday karaoke; Post 597 every Friday night dinners, St. Patrick's party on 15th (potluck & karaoke) and March 29th ALR annual poker party at 2 pm, April 6th party for 284th Engineering unit and April 12 Joe Senones' Celebration of Life; Post 802 would like to start back up with Crazy Bingo and they are buying dresses for donations; Post 453 having 50-60s Prom Night on May 3; Post 53 having Remington R25 .308 rifle with scope raffle; Post 504 sponsoring 2 boys to Boys State and participating in JROTC; Post 424 having Blessing of Bikes at 2:00 pm on March 29 and St. Patrick's party next Sat. at 7 pm.

Announcements:

The next District meeting will be the Spring Convention on April 12 at Post 424 starting at 9:00 am. Need delegate registration form.

The 1st Division Convention will be held on May 31 at the Elegante Hotel on Northwest Highway starting at 9 am. Commander Perkins complimented the 5th District on being in 1st place in the state.

Gary Poplin reminded everyone to have their delegate forms filled out prior to the District Spring Convention.

A motion was made by Pat Sansom to make the \$500 advance given to the Post hosting a District Convention a donation, Bill Craig seconded the

motion, motion did not carry. It was generally agreed that Post be reimbursed for actual expenses.

Meeting closed in regular order with closing prayer and retiring of the colors at 1520 hrs.

Submitted;
Gary Smith
Commander, 5th District
Department of Texas