

**American Legion 5<sup>th</sup> District,  
Department of Texas  
Meeting  
29 July, 2012  
Held at Post 802**

District Commander Jeff Perkins opened the meeting in regular order with the posting of the Colors and opening prayer at 1400.

Commander Perkins led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion.

**Roll call:**

Jeff Perkins, 5th District Commander – Present & Presiding

Gary Smith, 5th District Vice Commander – Present

Bill Craig, 5th District Adjutant – Present

Pat Sansom, 5th District Finance Officer – Present

Don Cecil, 5th District Chaplain – Present

Gary Poplin, 5th District Judge Advocate – Present

Bill Freauff, 5th District Historian – Present

Jim Swafford, 5th District Asst. Sergeant at Arms – Present

**Post in attendance:**

23, 81, 111, 184, 368, 424, 453, 504, 507, 511, 597, 802

**Post not in attendance:**

53, 124, 218, 275, 292, 581, 656, 855

**Reading of minutes of previous session:**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the previous session as posted on the district web page.

**Finance report:**

The District Finance Officer Pat Sansom gave the District finance report.

**Committee Reports:****Membership Report:**

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

The 5<sup>th</sup> District is currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place for membership turn-ins in the Department with 23.66%. Post 53 is in 1<sup>st</sup>. place with 40%.

Post 511 turned in 8 membership renewals and 2 transfers.

Post 453 turn in 14 renewals.

Vice Commander Smith reported on the upcoming Coffee tour on August 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:30 from Post 597, then on to 453, 53, and finishing at Post 368. The plan is to spend approximately 45 min. at each Post visited.

**Chaplains Report:**

The Chaplin reported Past District Commander Dan Arnold has released from Baylor Hospital on 7/28/12. He had suffered a Stroke, and was resting at home.

The Chaplin also reported on his experience at the Department Convention. He sensed a disturbing level of disconnect from those elected to serve. He didn't hear any concern that 25% of the nations homeless are veterans. That 30% of the inmates are Veterans. That the highest number of the unemployed are veterans.

**Convention Report:**

Commander Perkins reported of the Department Convention. The 5<sup>th</sup> District was well represented. The main tropic of debate was the proposed redistricting. The measure was voted down. According to Dept, Bylaws will not be revisited for at least 3 years.

Commander Perkins expressed a similar experience and Chaplin Cecil as to the political nature of Department Leadership. It seemed as thou most wanted everyone to know how much they knew instead of how they planned to support the Posts.

**SAL CONVENTION REPORT:**

Ed Magers reported that a new Squadron Commander was elected. Jeff Alvis of Marshal Squadron 267 is the Commander for 2012-2013.

The District is on target to make 100% of its membership goal.

Vice Commander Smith added that he wanted to commend Squadron 368 did a fine job in their recruitment and as of last Friday were at 200% of membership goal. In essence, they had doubled the size of their SAL.

Commander Perkins reported a significant change of the membership goal for 2013 is more realistic. The new goal is based on a Posts membership on June 15<sup>th</sup> add 1%.

**Oratorical:**

The Oratorical contest will begin in October. More information will be provided at the September District meeting.

Also Commander Perkins reported Post 111 will be introducing a resolution at the September District meeting to name the Oratorical scholarship award in honor of C. Jim Rey.

Past Commander Elkins reported on C. Jim Ray's health. C. Jim has been diagnosed with a very progressive form of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

**SAL:**

SAL advisor is working closely with Squadron 511 SAL to work thru their current challenges. Also working with Squadron 424 Commander to help them get back on track with their program.

**ALR Report:**

No report.

**Sick Call, relief and employment:**

Commander Perkins is still trying to work with the Dept. Adjutant to hold a job fair and to get Assistance from National to help the unemployed veterans of the area.

Also Commander of Post 23 reported that the Dallas VA hospital will be holding a homeless stand down for Veterans on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 0900-1400 at the VA resource center.

**Boys State:**

The District sent 57 boys to Boys State. One boy from Highland Park School was nominated for Boys Nation. A special thanks was extended to Ed Magers, Mark Mayor, and Bob Elkins for all their help in making this year's trip to Boys State a huge success.

**Historian:**

District Historian Freauff reported the Historian Book that was turned in to Dept. was available for everyone to see. The book chronicles the activities of Posts of the 5<sup>th</sup> District for the past year.

**Unfinished business:**

No unfinished business to discuss.

**New Business:**

A motion was made for to set aside \$300.00 for expenses the 2013 Dept. Convention. Motion was seconded and carried.

This will allow the convention committee to start their fund raising efforts to offset the costs of the convention. The committee will be seeking the same funding from the District AUX and SAL.

Vice Commander Smith made a motion for the District to set up a \$200.00 discretionary fund for the Commander to address expenses that come up between sessions. Motion was seconded. And after discussing the motion the motion was carried.

Sgt. at Arms made a motion to replace the Districts Flag Stands. The motion was seconded and carried.

Vice Commander Smith reported that 6 posts have yet to turn in their CPR reports. Commander Perkins reminded all present of the importance of the CPR reports.

**Good of The Legion:**

Commander announced the 5<sup>th</sup> District Fall Convention will be on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Post 511.

Bob Elkins reported on the 2013 Dept. Convention. The 5<sup>th</sup> District will Host 2013 Dept. Convention. The Convention will be held in Irvine. This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> Districts 3<sup>rd</sup> time hosting the Dept. Convention.

Historian Freauff brought up that not all Post Commanders are aware that they are voting members of the District. And that they have a say in the business decisions of the District. Commander Perkins will make this point thru the District Hub Master's distribution email.

Commander Perkins would like to encourage as many people be involved in the 2013 Dept. Conventions as can. The 5<sup>th</sup> District has been slated to Host the 2019 Dept. Convention. The more people involved now the better prepared the District will be for 2019. This will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Legion. The 1<sup>st</sup> Dept. Meeting was held in Dallas so it has been decided that the 2019 meeting will be held in Dallas.

The next District meeting will be on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Post 504.

Commander Perkins extended his gratitude to Post 802 for their hospitality.

Meeting closed in regular order with closing prayer and retiring of the colors at 11506 hrs.

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