

5th District Meeting at Post 88 Date: 10 September, 2023

Meeting was opened in due form by District Commander Miguel Garcia, with the salute to the flag, Chaplain’s opening prayer, POW/MIA Resolution, the pledge of allegiance led by the Sgt-at-Arms and reciting the Preamble of the American Legion.

Adjutant announced that the meeting was being recorded.

**Roll Call of Posts by Adjutant Reaves:** 15 Posts attending, 10 Commanders

**Correspondence:** None

**Minutes:** Motion was made to accept minutes of 13 August, 2023 meeting as posted on the District Website. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the members present.

**INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS AND GUESTS:**

Vice Commander Joe Maichle

Vice Commander Randy Whisman

Adjutant Deveron Reaves

Assistant Adjutant Sonny Kirkwood, absent/excused

Finance Officer Nancy Senter

Chaplain Brian Hancher

Historian Patricia Patrick

Judge Advocate Troy Horsley, absent/excused

Sgt-at-Arms Walter Rasco

Sgt-at-Arms Tim Pratt, absent/excused

Service Officer Eduardo Silva

**Guests:**

Past National Commander Clarence Hill

NEC Alternate Jerry Brandt

Northern Area Commander Lena Heredia-Perez

Northern Area Membership Chairman Robert Brewster

Dept ALR Chairman Jim Wineland

3rd District Commander Stuart Scott

Sgt-at-Arms escorted Post 88 Commander, Chris Hostletler, to the podium for his opening remarks welcoming the 5th District to Post 88. Post 88 Commander was escorted back to his seat.

Commander Garcia thanked everyone for the email responses during the recent hurricane that passed through the area. He reminded everyone to keep Buddy Check calls going! It definitely can make a difference.

**INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS:**

1. ALR Zane Koonce, absent/excused
2. Americanism Robert Brewster
3. Baseball Mark “Shannon” Wolford
4. Boy Scouts Joe Maichle
5. Boys State Michael Flanagan
6. Blood Donor Mark “Shannon” Wolford
7. Children and Youth Lena Heredia-Perez
8. Disaster Prep Shawn Beal
9. FHP Cadet Academy Robert Brewster
10. Law and Order Barry Litsky, absent/excused
11. Oratorical Cindy Anderson
12. POW/MIA Denny Luke
13. SAL Advisor Walter Rasco
14. School Medals Deveron Reaves
15. Shooting Sports James Nelson, absent/excused
16. Social Media Virna Luke
17. Website John Padgette, absent/excused

**REPORTS FROM DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS:**

1. **ALR, Zane Koonce,** was absent. Written report has been submitted and filed with the meeting minutes.
2. **Americanism, Robert Brewster,** had no report at this time
3. **Baseball, Mark “Shannon” Wolford,** reported that registration will open up in February, 2024 for next year.
4. **Boy Scouts, Joe Maichle,** reported that there were four (4) Eagle Scouts presented awards at a church nearby Post 316 with Joe Maichle and Mike Flanagan in attendance. There may have five (5) more within the next six (6) months.
5. **Boys State, Mike Flanagan,** reported that there were 14 boys elected to the House and 5 elected to the Senate. One delegate was selected to Boys Nation
6. **Blood Donor, Mark “Shannon” Wolford,** reported that you should log into the website and report your numbers. Try ad schedule at least two (2) to three (3) drives throughout the year, and get the information out to your members and the 5th District. This is a simple program.
7. **Children & Youth, Lena Heredia-Perez,** reported on the following information:
	1. Remember that schools are now in full session. Get your Post Children and Youth Chairmen to the schools and reach out and making contact with the Guidance Counselors
	2. There are a lot of programs out there that you can utilize and is a great way for our community to bond
	3. Registration for Junior Shooting Sports is 15 September, 2023
	4. Halloween coloring Books are available online. Please get them while you can. Put your Post information on them and get involved
	5. Department Children and Youth Picnic will be held at Post 323 on 5 November, 2023 at 1100
8. **Disaster Prep, Shawn Beal,** turned in a written report that has been submitted and filed with the meeting minutes. He briefly mentioned the following info:
	1. Hurricane Idalia spared the 5th District with no major damage
	2. TALARC met and monitored local frequencies and state amateur radio (SAR) network to volunteer and provide support as needed
9. **FHP Cadet Academy, Robert Brewster,** had no report at this time.
10. **Law and Order, Barry Litsky,** absent/excused. No report given.
11. **Oratorical, Cindy Anderson,** had no report at this time.
12. **POW/MIA, Denny Luke,** turned in a written report that has been submitted and filed with the meeting minutes. He highlighted the following information:
	1. The Department Commander, Detachment SAL Commander and Department Auxiliary President will be in attendance at the ceremony.
	2. 217 bikes have been registered for the meet and greet with 229 individuals registered to attend the social.
	3. Over 60 rooms have been booked for the event.
	4. Food trucks will be available at the beginning and at the end of the ceremony.
	5. Donations can be made to the National POW/MIA Memorial as follows:
		1. For upkeep of the Chapel, note **Chapel** in the memo line
		2. For the Memorial itself, note **Memorial** in the memo line
		3. Volunteers, please be there at 0800, Harley-Davidson Adamec with kick stands up at 1030
13. **SAL Advisor, Walter Rasco,** reported that there were eight (8) squadrons in attendance at the SAL 5th District meeting earlier today. This is the first time of being the SAL District Commander that there are no zero Squadrons at the September goal! Also, every Squadron met the September goal of 10%. Thirteen Squadrons have met the October goal of 25%. There are five (5) Squadrons that are over 50% and two (2) Squadrons over 90%. Congratulations to everyone!
14. **School Medals, Deveron Reaves,** had no report at this time.
15. **Shooting Sports, James Nelson,** absent. No report given.
16. **Social Media, Virna Luke,** absent/excused. No report given.
17. **Website, John Padgette,** absent/excused. No report given.

**FINANCE REPORT:**

Finance Officer Nancy Senter reported on the complete finances of the 5th District as follows:

**5th District Financial Report for August/September 2023**

Previous Account Balance - Checking $ 10,839.57

(Beginning August 1, 2023)

**Deposits**

**Interest accrued** $ 0.90

**50/50** $ 65.00

**Check # 7126 - From Post 197 – Convention Hospitality Rm** $ 50.00

**Total Deposits** $ 125.90

(**Note:** Collected $44.00 at the August meeting sign-in – kept as petty cash)

**Withdrawals - (Started new book of checks)**

**Check #301 - Lena Heredia-Perez - Plaques** $ 417.20

**Check #302 - Post 283 – Reimbursement - Flowers – DCC** $ 80.60

**Total Withdrawals** $ 497.80

**Checking account ending balance as of August 31, 2023** $ 10,467.67

**Checking account balance as of September 10, 2023** $ 10,467.67

**Previous Saving Account Balance as of August 1, 2023** $ 2,607.15

**Interest earned** $ 0.22

**Savings account ending balance as of August 31, 2023** $ 2,607.37

**Previous CD balance** $ 564.85

**Interest earned – June 2023** $ 1.54

**Interest earned – August 2023** $ 1.54

**CD Balance as of August 31, 2023** $ 569.20

A motion was made to accept the finance report as stated, subject to audit. Motion was seconded and passed by the members present.

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**DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER’S REPORT (MEMBERSHIP):**

Vice Commander Maichle reported on the following information:

* As of 2 September, 2023, the 5th District is in 11th place in the Department with 3333 paid members which is 45.27%
* There are five (5) Posts that are above the September’s goal of 50%
* Don’t worry about the Department’s numbers. Keep your numbers as accurate as possible. The goal is to know what YOUR numbers that have been processed. Please call me if you need any help

Vice Commander Wiseman reported on the following information:

* The 5th District Picnic information will be coming out soon

**DISTRICT COMMANDER’S REPORT:**

Commander Miguel Garcia reported on the following information:

* Membership – Continue to reach out to the 400 and 400AD. Keep accurate records so you can keep track and get credit for transfers. The Buddy Check system works! Check on the link in Mylegion.org about transfers into 400 and 400AD for your Post. Generate a list and get with Vice Commander Joe Maichle for assistance. Keep a separate log for tracking purposes. Make sure you are getting credit for the work that has been done.
* The National Organization dues will be going up $5. The process will start in January, so be prepared!
* There will be training held 16 March, 2024 at Post 137, 1100-1330. New training may be added and put together of Northern Area Commander, Lena Heredia-Perez. Specific training can be added if needed. Reach out to the Commander if you want to request a subject to be added.
* Oratorical packets will be mailed out sometime in September. I fully encourage all Posts to participate. There was only 1 out of 17 Posts submitted last year from the 5th District. Let’s get better. This is good Civic education for the student. A $2500 Department Scholarship is awarded to the winner and a $25,000 National Scholarship is awarded to the winner. This can help the student a great deal with little to no student debt. Three minutes can change their lives for their future. Please reach out to myself or the 5th District Oratorical Chairman, Cindy Anderson.
* The 5th District bank account has been transferred and fixed. The 5th District Commander and 5th District Finance Officer are on the account. We will work on an agreement within the 5th District to make sure everyone is aware of what’s happening. A written agreement is needed between the 5th District and a Post to handle this situation, so that there is no future conflict down the road. There will be more information to follow dealing with the EIN assigned to one (1) Post and one (1) Post only so there will be no further problems with the account. This is done with full transparency in which everyone knows what is going on.
* A small discussion ensued about the legalities of how the funds are supposed to be handled in the future in accordance with Department and National guidelines.

**POST REPORTS (should be written and submitted to the Adjutant to include Membership percentage and upcoming Post events)**

**ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION:** The following was brought up under Anything for the Good:

* Northern Area Commander, Lena Heredia-Perez, was escorted to the podium and Presented Certificate of Service awards to Chris Hostletler, Commander Post 88, and Mike Sylvester, Adjutant Post 88 and then was escorted back to her seat.
* ANEC, Jerry Brandt mentioned the following information:
	+ There were 140 Florida delegates that attended the recent National Convention in Charlotte, NC.
	+ The $5 increase in dues will take effect 1 July, 2024. You can renew for three (3) years at the current rate if it is done before 1 July, 2024. Paid-up-for-Life (PUFL) is also an option.
	+ A small discussion ensued about the different options and questions on how the Department and each Post will have to handle this situation.
* 5th District Sgt-at-Arms Walter Rasco mentioned the there will be an American Legion Night held on 11 November, 2023 at 1900 with the Jacksonville Icemen. This is open to everyone. The 5th District will get $5 from each ticket sold. All seats will be in the Club section at $40 per ticket. The Club section stays open for the duration of the game, regardless of the period or if the game goes into overtime. Flyers will be coming out soon. You must use the link on the flyer for the 5th District to get the $5.
* Northern Area Commander mentioned that the Resolution on the dues change is on Mylegion.org. You can read up on the changes there. She also mentioned to make sure you talk to the membership about the increase. The key is The American Legion is **STILL** losing membership. Recently visited the 3rd District to observe the devastation from Hurricane Idalia and what is needed in their area. Remember the Mission! Remember the Service!
* Ami West mentioned that there will be a Safety Standdown and Job Fair to be held at NS Mayport on 26-27 January, 2024.
* The 5th District SAL Sgt-at-Arms mentioned that a Jacksonville Warriors all-veterans hockey team will be accepting donations for Veterans and will play before the Jacksonville Iceman Hockey game on 13 April, 2024 in a Vets vs. Vets hockey game. They are tied into Mission 22 and The Fire Watch Veterans programs and is a 501c3 program.
* District Vice Commander, Joe Maichle, mentioned that the Beaches Honor Guard are looking for volunteers to help with presenting colors at different events.

Meeting was closed in due form by District Commander Miguel Garcia, Chaplain’s closing prayer, retrieval of the POW/MIA flag and the salute to the flag.

**MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1510 WITH THE CLOSING PRAYER.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Next District Meeting – 8 October, 2023 at Post 283**

**District Training – 16 March, 2024 at 137 1100-1330**

**POW/MIA Remembrance Seven Bridges Ride – 16 September, 2023**

For God and Country,

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Reaves, 5th District Adjutant