

5th District Meeting at Post 283 Date: 8 October, 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:** 11 Posts attending, 7 Commanders

**Correspondence:** The following correspondence was brought up to be read:

* Letter of Miguel Garcia endorsement for 5th District Commander for the 2024-2025 Legion year
* Letter of invitation for Jim Lacoursiere, leading candidate for National Commander, to a special private reception at Department of Florida Fall Conference on Friday, 17 November, 2023, 0700-0800. Donations will be accepted
* Letter of intent for a company to install wheelchair ramps at Veteran’s homes at no cost. Very short notice because they need to know by Monday, 9 October, 2023

**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, absent/excused

Vice Commander Randy Whisman

Adjutant Deveron Reaves

Assistant Adjutant Sonny Kirkwood, absent/excused

Finance Officer Nancy Senter

Chaplain Brian Hancher, absent/excused

Historian Patricia Patrick, absent/excused

Judge Advocate Troy Horsley

Sgt-at-Arms Walter Rasco

Sgt-at-Arms Tim Pratt

Service Officer Eduardo Silva

**Guests:**

Past National Commander Clarence Hill

Northern Area Commander Lena Heredia-Perez

Northern Area Membership Chairman Robert Brewster

District ALR Chairman Zane Koonce

Sgt-at-Arms escorted Post 283 Commander, Randy Whisman, to the podium for his opening remarks welcoming the 5th District to Post 283. Post 283 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
2. Americanism Robert Brewster
3. Baseball Mark “Shannon” Wolford, absent/excused
4. Boy Scouts Joe Maichle, absent/excused
5. Boys State Michael Flanagan
6. Blood Donor Mark “Shannon” Wolford, absent/excused
7. Children and Youth Lena Heredia-Perez
8. Disaster Prep Shawn Beal, absent/excused
9. FHP Cadet Academy Robert Brewster
10. Law and Order Barry Litsky, absent/excused
11. Oratorical Cindy Anderson, absent/excused
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, absent/excused
17. Website John Padgette, absent/excused

**REPORTS FROM DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS:**

1. **ALR, Zane Koonce,** reported on the following information:

* There are a total of 750 members within the 5th District in which includes 394 Legionnaires, 221 Auxiliary, and 135 SAL members. A total of 64,637 miles traveled, 6618 hours donated and $11,673 collected in donations
* There was a ride to Post 57 for the Toys 4 Tots run with nine (9) chapters involved
* Reminded everyone that the Merry-Go-Round event lasts throughout the month of October
* If you need any help, please contact him for any guidance
* Commander Garcia thanked Zane for a job well done
* Commander Heredia-Perez mentioned all the praises to the 5th District and what the 5th District does, including that she also rode 300+ miles in support of the 5th District

1. **Americanism, Robert Brewster,** had no report at this time.
2. **Baseball, Mark “Shannon” Wolford,** absent/excused. No report given.
3. **Boy Scouts, Joe Maichle,** absent/excused. No report given.
4. **Boys State, Michael Flanagan,** absent/excused. No report given. Commander Garcia did mention that fees for the Boys State bus trip went up to $495 per delegate.
5. **Blood Donor, Mark “Shannon” Wolford,** absent/excused. No report given.
6. **Children & Youth, Lena Heredia-Perez,** reported on the following information:

* Missing chairmen from many Posts! You are not getting information from Department. This is very important
* I challenge the Posts to schedule a Children and Youth event program in April which is Children and Youth month. Will attend the program as possible

1. **Disaster Prep, Shawn Beal,** absent/excused. No report given.
2. **FHP Cadet Academy, Robert Brewster,** had no report at this time.
3. **Law and Order, Barry Litsky,** absent/excused. No report given.
4. **Oratorical, Cindy Anderson,** absent/excused. No report given.
5. **POW/MIA, Denny Luke,** reported on the following information:

* Thanked Post 283 for hosting the meet and greet for the Seven bridges Run. The Department Commander and Department President attended the event. It was an overall success. There were 248 bikes present, in which several bikes had to turn around because of the capacity was reached for the event
* There was $7772 raised during the event in which $5900 was donated to Chapel at Cecil Commerce. Unfortunately, the Sheriff from The Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office is not wanting to sponsor future rides due to liability issues

1. **SAL Advisor, Walter Rasco,** reported on the following information:

* District is looking very good. Thank you, Post Commanders
* There are 37% paid members overall within the 5th District. The goal is 25% for the month of October
* Twelve (12) Squadrons have made goal with nine (9) of those Squadrons already have made November’s goal
* There are two (2) Squadrons that are over 90%. There are only two (2) under the October goal and only two (2) under the November goal

1. **School Medals, Deveron Reaves,** had no report at this time.
2. **Shooting Sports, James Nelson,** absent/excused. No report given.
3. **Social Media, Virna Luke,** absent/excused. No report given.
4. **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. She also mentioned that committee is needed to oversee the account. Jim Wineland, Mike Smith, Nancy Senter and Miguel Garcia volunteered to be on the committee.

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

Vice Commander Maichle was absent/excused. Commander Garcia reported on the following information:

* The 5th District is currently sitting at 52.68%
* There is an issue at Post 54 with transmittal of batches not being processed properly. Top all Posts, make sure you check your batches on a regular basis. There have been problems with reporting. If you have any issues, please contact Commander Garcia
* Many of the 5th District Posts have reached the 55% goal
* Continue to do Buddy Checks to make sure they are okay

Vice Commander Wiseman reported on the following information:

* The 5th District Picnic will be held at Post 137 on 13 April, 2024
* We are looking at having an Appreciation Room at the Fall Conference. Rooms are at a limited availability
* Motion was made to spend $1000 for the 5th District Picnic. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the members present
* Motion was made to spend $2500 for the Appreciation Room at the Fall Conference. Motion was seconded with heavy discussion. Several 5th District members are running for high offices in the Department. Normally there is not a Appreciation Room at the Fall Conference. Keep in mind that the monies involved are a lot of big expenses. Candidates will probably donate some funds out of pocket, but any extra will be gladly accepted. Some monies generated come from donations in the room.
* Motion was amended to whatever monies made in the Appreciation Room be put towards the expenses. Motion was passed by the members present

**DISTRICT COMMANDER’S REPORT:**

Commander Miguel Garcia reported on the following information:

* The 5th District Constitutional Conference (DCC) will be moved to a different date because of a conflict with a Department Commander event. We are looking into open dates. Right now, the following dates are possibilities for the new date to hold the DCC – 12 May, 2024, 25 May, 2024 or 26 May, 2024. There will be conflicts with the holidays and Boots on the Ground. We are trying to find the least amount of pain involved to schedule it.
* A small discussion ensued on the movement of the DCC to help with Candidates Call.
* 25 May, 2024 has been selected as the new date for the DCC by an agreement between the majority of members present
* There is an open position of 5th District Historian. If you are interested, please contact myself

**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:

* 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 are available. You must use the link on the flyer for the 5th District to get the $5.
* Ami West mentioned UF Health will be running a program and in need of a kitchen to hold classes.
* The Duval County Veterans Council meets at Post 137 on the third Tuesday of the month at 1900
* The Jacksonville National Cemetery needs a new golf cart to shuffle people around the grounds
* ALR District Chairman, Zane Koonce, mentioned that the Riders will give their full support at the Fall Conference
* Commander Heredia-Perez spoke briefly on membership renewals. Reach out to your members and continue Buddy checks. Vote on qualified candidates, not just on friendships

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 1515 WITH THE CLOSING PRAYER.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Next District Meeting – 12 November, 2023 at Post 202**

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

**District Constitutional Conference – 25 May, 2024 at Post 137**

For God and Country,

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Reaves, 5th District Adjutant