

5th District Meeting at Post 202 Date: 12 November, 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:** 12 Posts attending, 9 Commanders

**Correspondence:** None

**Minutes:** Motion was made to accept minutes of 8 October, 2023 meeting as posted on the District Website. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

**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 Toshiko Moultrie, absent/excused

Judge Advocate Troy Horsley, absent/excused

Sgt-at-Arms Walter Rasco

Sgt-at-Arms Tim Pratt, absent/excused

Service Officer Eduardo Silva, absent/excused

**Guests:** Past National Commander, Clarence Hill and Northern Area Commander, Lena Heredia-Perez were acknowledged in attendance.

**INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS:**

1. ALR Zane Koonce, absent/excused
2. Americanism Robert Brewster
3. Baseball Mark “Shannon” Wolford, absent/excused
4. Boy Scouts Joe Maichle
5. Boys State Michael Flanagan, absent/excused
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
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,** was absent. No report at this time.
2. **Americanism, Robert Brewster,** had no report at this time.
3. **Baseball, Mark “Shannon” Wolford,** was absent. No report at this time.
4. **Boy Scouts, Joe Maichle,** reported that there are looking for some Eagle Scout projects to complete around the 5th District.
5. **Boys State, Michael Flanagan,** was absent. No report at this time.
6. **Blood Donor, Mark “Shannon” Wolford,** was absent. No report at this time.
7. **Children & Youth, Lena Heredia-Perez,** reported on the following information: a. Challenged all Posts to put on an event in April for Children and Youth month.

b. Encourage all to attend training at the Department Fall Conference.

c. Legion College is open to all of the Legion family.

d. Northern Area Ball will be held on 13 January, 2024 at Post 57 to raise funds for Boys/Girls State.

e. A mild conversation ensued about Service Dogs. Other Departments have been reaching out and offering assistance with information. This will be brought up at Fall Conference.

f. What happens at you Post, effects everyone from National on down the chain of command.

1. **Disaster Prep, Shawn Beal,** was absent. Commander Garcia reported that Posts 250 and 401 have stations at their Posts dedicated on moving traffic. There were three (3) motivated people that moved over 6,000 traffic items in 2-3 days
2. **FHP Cadet Academy, Robert Brewster,** had no report at this time.
3. **Law and Order, Barry Litsky,** a total of 194 officers have been shot, in which 55 were killed in the line of duty. Please contact me if you are doing any event.
4. **Oratorical, Cindy Anderson,** was absent. No report at this time.
5. **POW/MIA, Denny Luke,** reported that one new piece of information is that the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office **WILL** continue to support the Seven Bridges Ride to override what was put out in a previous report.
6. **SAL Advisor, Walter Rasco,** reported that the 5th District is over the December goal. Ten Squadrons are over 50% of goal and two (2) are at 100%.
7. **School Medals, Deveron Reaves,** had no report at this time.
8. **Shooting Sports, James Nelson,** was absent. No report at this time.
9. **Social Media, Virna Luke,** was absent. No report at this time.
10. **Website, John Padgette,** was absent. No report at this time.

**FINANCE REPORT:**

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

**5th District Financial Report for October, 2023**

Previous Account Balance – Checking as of 1 October, 2023 $ 9,943.52

**Deposits**

* **Interest accrued** $ 0.85
* **50/50 Proceeds** $ 43.00

**Total Deposits** $ 43.85

(**Note: Collected $18.00 in sign-in donations at October meeting - $50.00 cash on hand to make change**)

**Withdrawals – None – (No outstanding checks)** $ 0.00

**Total Withdrawals** $ 0.00

**Checking account ending balance as of 31 October, 2023** $ 9,987.37

**Checking account balance as of 12 November, 2023** $ 9,987.37

**Previous Saving Account Balance as of 1 October, 2023** $ 3,207.59

**Interest earned** $ 0.27

**Savings account ending balance as of 31 October, 2023** $ 3,207.86

**Previous CD balance** $ 569.20

**Interest earned – 31 October, 2023** $ 1.55

**CD Balance as of 31 October, 2023** $ 572.25

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

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

Vice Commander Maichle reported on the following information:

* 5th District membership is at 62.67%
* Six (6) Posts made the 8 November, 2023 goal of 65%
* Two (2) Posts have already made the December goal of 75%
* Check your area 400 and 400AD. This helps and will get your Post to 100%

Vice Commander Wiseman reported on the following information:

* We will not use 5th District funds for the Appreciation Room at the Fall Conference
* The 5th District Picnic will be held at Post 137 on 20 April, 2024. This event will cover our participation for Children and Youth month
* Currently filling to role as Northern Area Baseball Commissioner. We are looking for an assistant as Vice Commissioner if anyone is interested

**DEPARTMENT NORTHERN AREA MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:** reported on the following information:

* Spoke to the members and thanking them on hitting the 65% goal. Congratulations!
* Will always be here to help because **Retention is the Key!**
* Work on keeping the members we got
* Mylegion.org is the future and is available to help

**DISTRICT COMMANDER’S REPORT:**

Commander Miguel Garcia reported on the following information:

* Busy day yesterday, and well worth it, for all of the Veterans Day activities and attending the Jacksonville Icemen hockey game that had a tribute to the Veterans in the area
* The 5th District missed the membership goal by 2.33%. This is not new because, it is tough! Just remember, we are very big by 2-3 times the size most of the other Districts
* Buddy Checks are a must! Let’s reach out to the members in your area. Times can be rough. It’s not about the drinks, it’s about the community and the people
* The Rush will start in January to pick up on renewing members
* Toshiko Moultrie is the new 5th District Historian
* Reminder to all the members that the Department Fall Conference will be held in Orlando at the Caribe Royale Hotel this upcoming weekend
* The Department Commander will visit 7-10 December, 2023 along with the Department President also being in attendance

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

* Post 316 added information about their upcoming Post Golf Tournament
* Post 372 added about the helpful support throughout the 5th District on getting a Post home. Thank you!

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

* Legionnaire Ami Ritter spoke about Trident Ministry will be at NS Mayport to help service members and veterans. Please sign up by 14 November, 2023. This organization will work with Active-Duty service members and The American Legion
* Question was raised about doing something special for the 5th District meeting to be held on 10 December, 2023 at Post 129. A small discussion ensued about having an ugly sweater contest for all the members present at the meeting
* 3rd District Legion Riders Chairman spoke on how the 5th District was well supported for the recent Toys-4-Tots Ride. $3500 worth of toys were collected as well as $13,000 cash was donated. Both numbers are still being collected. Commander Garcia proudly thanked everyone who participated

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 1505 WITH THE CLOSING PRAYER.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Next District Meeting – 10 December, 2023 at Post 129**

**Department Fall Conference – 17-19 November, 2023 at the Caribe Royal Hotel in Orlando**

**Children and Youth month – April, 2024**

**Northern Area Ball – 13 January, 2024 at Post 57**

**5th District Picnic – 20 April, 2024 at Post 137**

For God and Country,

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Reaves, 5th District Adjutant

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**A close-up of a flag

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Commander Miguel Garcia

Vice Commander Joe Maichle

Vice Commander Randy Whisman

Al5thdistrict.org

www.facebook.com/al5thdistrictfl/

**5th District Financial Report for November 2023**

**(presented - December 11, 2023, meeting)**

**Checking Account Balance as of November 1, 2023, $ 9,987.37**

**Deposits**

* **Interest accrued $ .82**
* **50/50 Proceeds and sign-in $ 81.00**

**Total Deposits 81.82**

(Note: $50.00 is kept on hand to make change at meetings)

**Withdrawals – None –** (No outstanding checks)

**$ 00.00**

**Total Withdrawals $ 00.00**

**Checking account ending balance as of December 1, 2023**  **$ 10,069.19**

**Previous Saving Account Balance as of November 1, 2023 $ 3,207.86**

**Interest earned .26**

**Savings account ending balance as of December 1, 2023 $ 3,208.12**

**Previous CD balance $ 572.25**

**Interest earned - Nov 2023 1.51**

**CD Balance as of December 1, 2023, $ 573.76**

**For God & Country**

**Nancy Senter**

**Finance Officer**