



5th District Meeting at Post 250

Date: 11 February, 2024

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: 13 Posts attending, 8 Commanders

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Motion was made to accept minutes of 14 January, 2024 meeting as posted on the District Website. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

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
Historian Toshiko Moultrie
Judge Advocate Troy Horsley, absent/excused
Sgt-at-Arms Walter Rasco
Sgt-at-Arms Tim Pratt
Service Officer Eduardo Silva

Sgt-at-Arms escorted Post 250 Adjutant, Dick Rowe, to the podium for his opening remarks welcoming the 5th District to Post 250. Post 250 Adjutant was escorted back to his seat.

Guests:

ALR 5th District Chairman, Zane Koonce; Past National Commander, Clarence Hill; Northern Area membership Chairman, Victoria Zeigler; ALR 3rd District Chairman, Mike Zeigler; Northern Area Commander, Lena Heredia-Perez and 4th District Commander, Doug Hockenberry were recognized in attendance.

Commander Hockenberry spoke briefly as serving on both the National Americanism Commission and the Northern Area Americanism Commission Chairman for the last two (2) years as well as the 4th District Americanism Chairman for the last four (4) years. He thanked all who served and their patriotism. He continued by giving kudos to the kids that speak as part of the Oratorical program and Americanism. He also put together a package dealing with programs under Americanism. We all have a moral obligation as Veterans to uphold the traditions of The American Legion and Americanism, including all Legion programs. He also emphasized the “Be the One” program and have a responsibility to promote Veterans causes. This program is Number One in my book! If you have any questions, please get with him.

INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS:

A) ALR	Zane Koonce
B) Americanism	Robert Brewster
C) Baseball	Mark “Shannon” Wolford
D) Boy Scouts	Joe Maichle, absent/excused
E) Boys State	Michael Flanagan
F) Blood Donor	Mark “Shannon” Wolford
G) Children and Youth	Lena Heredia-Perez
H) Disaster Prep	Shawn Beal
I) FHP Cadet Academy	Robert Brewster
J) Law and Order	Barry Litsky
K) Oratorical	Cindy Anderson
L) POW/MIA	Denny Luke
M) SAL Advisor	Walter Rasco
N) School Medals	Deveron Reaves
O) Shooting Sports	James Nelson, absent/excused
P) Social Media	Virna Luke, absent/excused
Q) Website	John Padgette, absent/excused

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS:

- A) **ALR, Zane Koonce**, reported there are 717 members within the 5th District in which 365 are Legionnaires, 214 are Auxiliary and 138 are SAL. A total on 55,739 miles, 8,841 hours and \$4,744 in donations were raised during the month of January, 2024. Proud of the 5th District at the recent ALR Summit and the volunteering during the event, including teaching a couple of the classes and hosting one (1) of the Hospitality Rooms.
- B) **Americanism, Robert Brewster**, has no report at this time.
- C) **Baseball, Mark “Shannon” Wolford**, has no report at this time.
- D) **Boy Scouts, Joe Maichle**, was absent. No report at this time.
- E) **Boys State, Michael Flanagan**, reported that Boys State registration is now open until 22 March, 2024. Orientation will be at Post 129 on 5 May, 2024. The rules have changed. Posts can sponsor as many candidates as they want or can afford. It doesn't matter which Post sponsors the delegate.

- F) **Blood Donor, Mark “Shannon” Wolford**, reported that there will be a “One Blood” drive sometime soon during the year.
- G) **Children & Youth, Lena Heredia-Perez**, reported that the Legion Family Day event will be held at the end of April, 2024. Please let her know the ifs and when you are doing your event so she came possibly attend.
- H) **Disaster Prep, Shawn Beal**, was absent. No report at this time.
- I) **FHP Cadet Academy, Robert Brewster**, has no report at this time.
- J) **Law and Order, Barry Litsky**, has no report at this time.
- K) **Oratorical, Cindy Anderson**, reported that one (1) delegate will represent the 5th District at the Northern Area competition. Motion was made to award \$500 to the 5th District winner. Motion was seconded with a small discussion on participation. Motion was unanimously passed by members present.
- L) **POW/MIA, Denny Luke**, reported that several events were held throughout the 5th District.
- M) **SAL Advisor, Walter Rasco**, reported that six (6) squadrons are at 100%. Two (2) squadrons are 1 card short. Thirteen Squadrons are over 80% for March goal. Your Squadron Data Report needs to be filled out and turned in before 1 May, 2024. He also explained the differences of members paying online and through the Squadron. Some monies are not being accounted for to help the Squadron with their programs if they are paid through National. Nominations and elections have to be done before ten (10) days of the Detachment Convention, in which your Squadron Officer Report needs to be filled out and turned in before 3 June, 2024. This is the cutoff for Squadron elections.
- N) **School Medals, Deveron Reaves**, reported that this is crunch time for talking to your local schools and their counselors to be part of the awards ceremonies. Several key dates are as follows:
- 6 February, email all schools on your Master School Medals list (if applicable) about participation in the program
 - 4 March, send a reminder email to the schools who have not responded as they need to get back with you by 15 March to participate
 - 18 March, send a follow-up email with attachments of the School Medals Worksheet by 5 April so that the correct number of medals can be ordered
 - Double check information because there may be conflicting information sent by different people. Call or email to get clarification
- O) **Shooting Sports, James Nelson**, was absent. No report at this time.
- P) **Social Media, Virna Luke**, was absent. No report at this time.
- Q) **Website, John Padgette**, was absent. No report at this time.
- R) **Women Veterans, Amy Ritter**, reported that she has met with and will meet with a couple of Posts to discuss the program. There are resources available for mothers with children that is imperative for the families. There is a place by the Jacksonville National Airport that can assist whereas she has information for you to get in touch with them if needed.

FINANCE REPORT:

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

5th District Financial Report for February, 2024

Previous Account Balance - Checking **\$ 10,085.84**
(Beginning 1 January, 2024)

Deposits:

- Interest accrued \$ 0.86
- 50/50 Proceeds and Sign-in Contributions \$ 67.00
- Icemen Hockey check \$ 110.00

Total Deposits **\$ 177.86**

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

Withdrawals

None **\$ 0.00**

Total Withdrawals **\$ 0.00**

Checking account ending balance as of 31 January, 2024 **\$ 10,262.90**

Previous Saving Account Balance as of 31 January, 2024 **\$ 3,208.39**

Interest earned \$ 0.27

Savings account ending balance as of **\$ 3,208.66**

Previous CD balance **\$ 575.32**

Interest earned – January, 2024 \$ 1.56

CD Balance as of 31 January, 2024 **\$ 576.88**

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 was absent. Commander Garcia reported on the following information:

- The following Posts hit the 85% goal for February – 88,129, 202, 244, 250, 283, 316 and 372
- The following Posts hit the 90% goal for March – 9, 37 and 54
- The following Post has already hit 100% - 194
- The 85% goal for the 5th District was hit 2 ½ weeks early! Congratulations to everyone! The 5th District is currently at 87.73% right now. The 90% target goal is 6 March, 2024. Don’t stop doing what you are doing!
- So proud of everyone and sees the numbers every week. Congratulations!

Vice Commander Wiseman reported on the following information:

- Volunteers are still needed for the 5th District picnic to be held on 20 April, 2024. Flyers will be available at the next 5th District meeting. There will be things set-up for the kids to do
- Volunteers are still needed for the Hospitality Room at the upcoming Department Convention in Orlando 13-16 June, 2024. Posts 129 and 283 have donated a lot of time and effort every year. We need help from other Posts!

DISTRICT COMMANDER'S REPORT:

Commander Miguel Garcia reported on the following information:

- At the last month's 5th District meeting, it was voted for a Post to use an EIN for 5th District Finances. There have been two (2) Posts that have volunteered to step up. We will vote on the actual Post at a later date as long as the Post has its current IRS forms up-to-date. The Finance Committee is still working on it
- 5th District training will be held at Post 137 on 16 March, 2024, 1100-1330. Flyers are available with more information
- The 5th District ride will be split up between Northern and Southern routes. Please get with Zane Koonce for more information
- District officers will do something with the funds received, where everyone will be able to benefit from the proceeds. We are looking at 50% will go to the Legion and 50% will go to the ALR. These donations are to offset cost of the Hospitality Rooms at the Department Convention in June so that the members that attend can benefit

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 of the Legion:

- Post 197 Commander, Toshiko Moultrie, mentioned that Post 197 has its first Prostate Cancer Support Group awareness and was a success! Twenty-Five men attended the initial kickoff. The next support group meeting will be held on 9 March, 2024 at 1200. A caregiver's support group will also start up around that time
- Northern Area Membership Chairman, Victoria Ziegler, spoke quickly on membership renewals. She will reach out to the Posts that are under the goal. Let's keep pushing to get to 100%
- Northern Area Commander, Lena Heredia-Perez, mentioned that the Consolidated Post Reports is a must to get them done! The Department Commander's goal is 100% turn in. The numbers are key for reporting to Congress. This is to ensure to get bills passed to benefit Veterans. The Northern Area is third in the Department for membership and is breaking records! Make sure you get your membership in!
- Lena Heredia-Perez stated that she is running for the High Office of 2nd Vice Commander, Department of Florida. She mentioned having held many positions within Post, District and Department levels. She is willing to bring new ideas with

help from everyone with training being the key. Membership is a must because with no members, there is no voice in DC. As Legion members, there is a responsibility! When voting, vote on character and not on friendship

- There will be a March on Tallahassee event on 21 February, 2024. Everyone will meet at 0900 at Post 13 to meet with state legislators
- Vice Commander Wiseman spoke as the Northern Area Baseball Commissioner which covers Ocala north; panhandle to the Atlantic. He is looking for at least 24 teams in the area. Please support the Legion and this program
- Ed Silva spoke about several scams going around since 1 January, 2024 dealing with VA and Camp Lejeune claims. Please be very careful on what information you give out
- Chapter 57 is hosting a chili cookoff on 24 February, 2024 at 1100. There are flyers available
- Zane Koonce mentioned that the Motorcycle Safety Awareness Training program is in full effect. Monies received will get split between several motorcycle organizations to help spread the word about motorcycle awareness. We are looking forward to having more safety events in the 5th District

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 1455 WITH THE CLOSING PRAYER.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next District Meeting – 10 March, 2024 at Post 401

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

District Picnic – 20 April, 2024 at Post 137

Boys State Orientation – 5 May, 2024 at Post 129

**District Constitutional Conference – 25 May, 2024 at Post 137,
Registration starts at 0830**

Department Convention in Orlando – 13-16 June, 2024

For God and Country,
Respectfully Submitted,
Ron Reaves, 5th District Adjutant



Commander Miguel Garcia
 Vice Commander Joe Maichle
 Vice Commander Randy Whisman



Al5thdistrict.org
www.facebook.com/al5thdistrictfl/

**5th District Financial Report for February 2024
 (presented at the March 10, 2024 meeting)**

Checking Account Balance as of February 1, 2024	<u>\$ 10,262.90</u>
Deposits	
• Interest accrued	\$.81
• 50/50 Proceeds & Sign-in Contributions	<u>\$ 48.00</u>
Total Deposits	\$ 48.81
Withdrawals (** denotes withdrawal still outstanding)	
** Check # 303 - District Oratorical Scholarship	\$ 500.00
Total Withdrawals	\$ 00.00
Checking account ending balance as of February 29, 2024,	<u>\$ 10,311.71</u>
Saving Account Balance as of February 1, 2024	\$ 3,208.66
Interest earned	.26
Post 88 – Convention Hospitality Suite Donation	<u>50.00</u>
Total Deposits	\$ 50.26
Savings account ending balance as of February 29, 2024	\$ 3,258.92
Previous CD balance	\$ 575.88
Interest earned – Feb 2024	<u>1.46</u>
CD Balance as of February 29, 2024	\$ 578.34

Notes: \$50.00 on hand to make change at meetings
 CD matures as of 12/2024

For God & Country

**Nancy Senter
 Finance Officer**