



5th District Meeting onboard USS ORLECK (Post 401)

Date: 10 March, 2024

Meeting was opened in due form by 5th District Commander Miguel Garcia, with the salute to the flag, Chaplain's opening prayer, moment of silence for District Vice Commander and Post 129 Commander, Joe Maichle, who transferred to Post Everlasting POW/MIA Resolution, the pledge of allegiance 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, 9 Commanders

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Motion was made to accept minutes of 11 February, 2024 meeting as posted on the District Website. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS AND GUESTS:

Vice Commander Randy Whisman
Adjutant Deveron Reaves
Assistant Adjutant Sonny Kirkwood
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

Guests: ALR 5th District Chairman, Zane Koonce; Past National Commander, Clarence Hill; Northern Area Commander, Lena Heredia-Perez and NEC Jim Ramos were recognized in attendance.

Sgt-at-Arms escorted Post 401 Commander, Wesley Baker, to the podium for his opening remarks welcoming the 5th District to the USS Orleck Museum. Post 401 donated money to the USS Orleck and have a plaque that was presented to the ship. Let's support the ship and get behind them 100% for all the work they have done. Post 401 Commander was escorted back to his seat.

Sgt-at-Arms escorted Auxiliary 5th District President, Julie Kay, along with Tammy Baker to welcome everyone to the joint meeting. She introduced the 5th District Officers and Chairmen and roll call of Units. President Kay also mentioned Girl's State deadline for entries has been extended to the end of the month. The Military Child Table Ceremony will be held after the next 5th District meeting on 14 April, 2024 at Post 54. Girl's State orientation will be held on 28 April, 2024 at Post 316. Registration starts at 1230 and orientation starts at 1300. If you have a secret pal, please reveal yourself at the next 5th District meeting to be held at Post 54. 5th District Auxiliary President and Tammy Baker were escorted back to her seat.

INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS:

A) ALR	Zane Koonce
B) Americanism	Robert Brewster
C) Baseball	Mark "Shannon" Wolford
D) Boy Scouts	VACANT
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
Q) Website	John Padgette, absent/excused
R) Women Veterans	Amy Ritter

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS:

Due to time restraints, the majority of the 5th District reports were deferred for this month except as listed:

- A) **ALR, Zane Koonce**, No report at this time.
- B) **Americanism, Robert Brewster**, No report at this time.
- C) **Baseball, Mark "Shannon" Wolford**, No report at this time.
- D) **Boy Scouts, VACANT**, No report at this time.
- E) **Boys State, Michael Flanagan**, Deadline for registration in 20 March, 2024. So far, 52 boys are slotted in which 11 need to still be registered. Orientation will be held at Post 129 on 5 May, 2024. Remember, at least one (1) parent will need to be in attendance during all activities.
- F) **Blood Donor, Mark "Shannon" Wolford**, No report at this time.
- G) **Children & Youth, Lena Heredia-Perez**, No report at this time.
- H) **Disaster Prep, Shawn Beal**, No report at this time.
- I) **FHP Cadet Academy, Robert Brewster**, No report at this time.
- J) **Law and Order, Barry Litsky**, No report at this time.
- K) **Oratorical, Cindy Anderson**, No report at this time.

- L) **POW/MIA, Denny Luke**, Please login to the POW/MIA Memorial.org website to pass HR-3670 to be voted on by the State House Representatives. You can view it online and is highly encouraged that everyone looks it up and read it.
- M) **SAL Advisor, Walter Rasco**, The 5th District is at 95.4%. Squadron 197 is at 178.5%! There are nine (9) Squadrons at 100%+. Three (3) Squadrons have met the March goal. Three Squadrons also have met the February goal. This will be his last meeting as SAL 5th District Commander. Commander Garcia thanked Comrade Rasco for his service.
- N) **School Medals, Deveron Reaves**, No report at this time.
- O) **Shooting Sports, James Nelson**, No report at this time.
- P) **Social Media, Virna Luke**, No report at this time.
- Q) **Website, John Padgette**, No report at this time.
- R) **Women Veterans, Amy Ritter**, mentioned she recently attend the Wellness Clinic. If anyone is interested in this program, please contact her.

FINANCE REPORT:

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

5th District Financial Report for March, 2024

Previous Account Balance - Checking (Beginning 1 February, 2024)	\$ 10,262.90
---	--------------

Deposits

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| • Interest accrued | \$ 0.81 |
| • 50/50 Proceeds and 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	\$ 0.00

Checking account ending balance as of 29 February, 2024	\$ 10,311.71
---	--------------

Previous Saving Account Balance as of 1 February, 2024	\$ 3,208.66
--	-------------

Interest earned	\$ 0.26
-----------------	---------

Post 88 – Convention Hospitality Suite Donation	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
---	-----------------

Savings account ending balance as of 29 February, 2024	\$ 3,258.92
--	-------------

Previous CD balance	\$ 575.88
---------------------	-----------

Interest earned – February, 2024	<u>\$ 1.46</u>
----------------------------------	----------------

CD Balance as of 29 February, 2024	\$ 578.34
------------------------------------	-----------

Notes:

- \$50.00 is kept on hand to make change at meetings
- CD matures as of December, 2024

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

There have been discussions about having a Post use their EIN for the 5th District. Post 129 has been selected. All paperwork has been filled out and will be signed soon.

DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT:

Vice Commander Wiseman reported on the following information:

- The 5th District Picnic will be held on 20 April, 2024 at Post 137
- The Department Convention meal has been set. We will need help with the setup and the breakdown, plus any monies that can be donated. We are family and help each other. Please give as much as you can

DISTRICT COMMANDER'S REPORT:

Commander Miguel Garcia reported on the following information:

- Every Post in the 5th District has at least 80% membership.
- The following Posts hit the 90% March goal – 9, 37, 54, 88, 194, 197, 233, 244, 250, 283, 316 and 372
- We are 1.92% ahead of membership from this time last year. Keep targeting the 400 and 400AD members. They should be in a Post, **PERIOD!** Share your stories with your community, Veterans and their family
- There is a new 5th District Florida Highway Patrol/Law Cadet Chairman, Linda Story. If interested, please contact her to become actively involved. Information has been gathered to find out that the Department is still dealing with this program. The idea is to send at least one (1) kid from each District to attend the event. It costs approximately \$500-\$600 per kid for a week of training
- There will be training at Post 137 on 16 March, 2024. There is a change of time from posted before. It will be 1000-1230 to accommodate the timing of the Celebration of Life for 5th District Vice Commander, Joe Maichle in which will start at 1400 for the people who want to attend.
- A 5th District ride will be held on 23 March, 2024. Please come out and support the 5th District Officers as a Unity Ride. 50% of the proceeds from the run will go to the Legion Hospitality Room at Department Convention and the other 50% will go to the ALR Hospitality Room. Remember, All the donations collected will be going back out to the 5th District. Please come out and join the group being part of the 5th District. ALR District Chairman Koonce added that Challenge 22 will be part of the ride to promote District Unity
- The 5th District Constitutional Conference will be held on 25 May, 2024. There are currently no official Letters of Endorsements for 5th District Vice Commanders that have been submitted. There have been several changes since last year because of the Department Constitution and By-Laws. The main difference being the naming of the First Vice Commander and Second Vice Commander. If you know good people at your Post, encourage them to do it. It is a lot of work, but well worth it in the long run. We will be working along side each other, but you will be put to work so that the job can be completed. The new difference is that the 1st Vice Commander is on the Department Executive Committee (DEC) and the 2nd Vice Commander is not. Previously, both were part of the DEC.

POST REPORTS (should be written and submitted to the Adjutant to include Membership percentage and upcoming Post events). All Post reports have been deferred for this month.

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION:

The following was brought up under Anything for the Good:

- NEC Jim Ramos spoke on the following items:
 - campaigned for the high office of National Executive Committeeman, 2024-2026
 - There are two (2) bills in the Florida legislature that will need to be passed.
 - Boys State and Girls State, \$250,000 is needed to pass the Florida House and Senate for funding for room and board in Tallahassee. This will help keep our costs down
 - The American Legion National Convention will be held in Tampa, FL in August, 2025. A lot of volunteers are needed for this endeavor. Information is online at www.fllegion.org if you want to sign up for any volunteerism
- Commander Sonny Kirkwood mentioned that Post 233 is in process of completely rebuilding the Post. Will cost approximately \$800,000 for a 4,000 square foot metal building. Around \$500,000 has been donated already. We still obviously can use more. The Post is currently open Thursday through Sunday.
- Woman's Veterans 5th District Chairman Amy Ritter mentioned that she and Co-chair Nancy Senter attended 31st Cohort Graduation of Total Wellness for Northeast Florida Women's Veterans. This is a 6-week program that helps Women Veterans. They spend time out and talking about experiences and answer questions about their time in the service and other aspects about their life in and out of the military. If you want to share your experiences, please reach out to either Amy Ritter or Nancy Senter
- Commander Toshiko Moultrie stated that Post 197 is having a Commander's Ball and 77th Post anniversary 8-13 April, 2024 in which is open to all Legionnaires and special guests. Also, the first annual Sat-tap Bay riders' event to be held on 16 March, 2024. She thanked The American Legion because as of 1 April, 2024, she is now a member on the Veterans Affairs committee on the Jacksonville City Counsel
- The Beaches Honor Guard is recruiting for new members from the 5th District. Flyers are available if you are interested. Chaplain Brian Hancher reiterated what the Honor Guard is about and what their service means to the family of a loved one that they lost. They are not limited to the Beaches. They do travel to wherever they are needed
- Community Service Chairman, Bridgett Greene mentioned that there is a Legion Family event on 27 April, 2024. Brag about what your Post is doing! Focus is "Be the One" to curtail Veterans Suicide and community awareness. She highlighted Post 233 during their bingo night, showing awareness for "Be the One". All of the information is available online to printout
- Joanne Miller recognized all women Veterans being that March is Women's Veterans Month

Meeting was closed in due form by 5th 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 – 14 April, 2024 at Post 54

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

District Picnic – 20 April, 2024 at Post 137, 1300-1700

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,

Deveron Reaves,
5th District Adjutant