

22ND DISTRICT CONVENTION
AMERICAN LEGION POST 521 PASADENA TX. 77503

APRIL 13, 2019

8am

American Legion Post 521 (host Post) and its Auxiliary, conducted the registration process and provided coffee and pastries to attendees.

Commander Thomas opened the Convention with a welcome and the pledge of allegiance to the U. S> flag. Then turned the convention over to the Chaplains of the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the Legion, who conducted the Post Everlasting Ceremony.

Commander Thomas then introduced a representative of Assistive Technology Unlimited (ATU) who gave an overview of the program that provides equipment for veterans with hearing and vision impairments.

Commander Thomas introduced National Executive Committeeman, Butch Sparks, who conducted training on Post Operations. The training was designed to encourage Legionnaire participation. It was Informative, engaging, and a timely period of instructions with an aim to build competence and confidence in our current leaders and future leaders. The presentation was concluded with a Q&A session.

Post 521 hosted lunch for all registered members and guests for 10 am until 1300pm.

District Convention Commence at 1 O'clock pm April 29, 2019, and opened by Commander Joseph Thomas.

Opening ceremony conducted.

Commander Thomas made opening remarks and a presentation to Post 521 for hosting the Convention this year. He also made gave comments and an award to District Service Officer Greg Treacy given for recognized community service by the 4 Chapel Awards Committee.

Call for the reading of last DEC minutes. A motion to suspend the reading of last DEC minutes made by the District Chaplain and seconded by Vice Commander Woodstrom. Vote passed

1st reading of Credentials by Butch Sparks. He also gave the number of votes that each post would have if they are properly represented at the time of a vote. Post votes are 52(), 77 (13), 164 (), 316 (), 319 (), 391 (2), 416 (5), 472 (10), 490 (79), 521 (13), 594 (), 596 (), 654 ().

Officer Reports

Vice Commander provided a written report on the current membership status of the District. See attachments. He also challenged that Adjutants to watch entries online. HE encouraged adjutant to stay abreast as to the timeline of National's response to downline entries.

Turn-ins Vice Commander received (4) four turn-ins from Post 52. Post 490 reported that 45 renewals had been posted this week as well.

Adjutant No Report

Finance Officer Report Finance Officer Lynn Sparks gave the current financial report. Motion by Adjutant Jimmy Mitchell to accept report as given. Seconded by Chaplain Robert Harvey. Vote passed.

Judge Advocate Judge Advocate Butch Sparks commented on the responsibilities of membership by the members. He strongly pointed out the wholehearted effort of the Post membership when it comes to getting the renewals. He highlighted the efforts of one of Post 490 members contacting 600 members to ensure their renewals were processed.

Training Butch Sparks reported on the need for all Legionnaires to take the Basic ALEI Course. He reminded all District Officers that this requirement is a must for District, Division and higher Officers.

Rules Butch Sparks read the Rules per the procedures of the District Convention.

Constitution & By-Laws Butch Sparks reported on the state of the District in regards to each Post's current status. He reported that we have a Post that hasn't updated its documents since 1985. He gave recommended times to update. October/November as the best time.

Service Officer Greg Treacy reported on the Appeals Modification Act, 2019. He also provided a written report. This Act spells out the newly enacted appeals process. He also noted the new DEROS sites, St Petersburg, Florida and Seattle Washington, Houston was not in the mentioned. He also brief on the spousal implications in the new process. He informed us of the installation of the new V A Hospital Director, Robert Werling. He spoke inclusively on Ownership of Claims Program/Process, forms Changes and the possible occurrences of changes in the veteran's appeals process W/O notification.

Hubmaster Harry Woodstrom provided a written report. See Attached

Americanism No Report

Boys Scout Commander Thomas reported on the recent Scout project which was the new Post Signs that identify each Post in the District.

Boys State Chairman Mitchell asked Commander Thomas to allow Past Department Commander Lynn Sparks (2019 Transportation Coordinator) to inform the Convention on our current status. There was a discussion concerning the deadline for waivers to ride the buses. The major concern was the late compliance of the boys to the stated deadline (April 9, 2019).

Legislative Harry Woodstrom reported on the gathering of information on the Care and feeding of Veterans. He reported on the support of Bingo Legislation. He also spoke about the different benefit % based on the increase tax release.

National Security No Report

Resolutions The resolutions of Jeff Perkins, Phil Westerman for Department Commander, Roger Folmar, Bobby Baker for Department Vice Commander, were read for information only, as our Constitution prohibits us from endorsing any candidate not in our District.

VA&R James King reported on the Mission Act. He reported on the endorsement of the Accountability Act. Likewise he repeated his comments on the employees situation concerning bad performance. Commander Thomas reported on the recent veteran suicides in the Hospital parking Lot. Butch Sparks commented on the VSOs and their role in limiting these occurrences. He also questioned as to are there warning signs that help identify potential victims? The upcoming Town Hall meeting at Post 472 was noted as a venue where such issues can be voiced. The Veterans Crisis Hotline is 1866 959 4026.

Adjutant Mitchell motioned for a 10 minute break. Seconded by Finance Officer Lynn Sparks. Motion passed.

POST REPORTS

52 Post Commander provided a written report.

77 Post Legionnaire Andy Valadez reported on some recent Post activities to include Fire Fighter Awards Ceremony. No written report given.

164 Post Commander Woodstrom reported on the three fireman and three EMTs and the police recognition that is upcoming. He reported on the following, the Rice Festival and the recruiting opportunity is presents, The Katy Parade, Wreaths across America and that they put a wreath on every grave this year, with 400 participants, started an SAL, Riders, sending (36) Boys to Boys State and starting a Junior Shooting Team next year.

316 Post Commander Andrews reported the following, the Post participated in the Community Outreach Services, Corsets for Veterans (female), May 10th Outreach Houston Texas, sponsored a back pack for youth event at Post 490, provided turkeys for families (thanksgiving), participated in Toys 4 Tots (100 families), assisted 80 women through Visitations, Partner with Houston Food Bank, and Farmer's Market, and 12 June Women Veterans Day.

416 Post Commander King reported on the following events at his post, V A ceremony, Black History Program, Vet-Day, 100th Annual WW1 Gala, sock drop, monthly movie night, MEPS Center partner, adopt a Vet program, participated in JROTC, Oratorical programs, supported Star of Hope Homeless Women Shelter. Report to b sent via email to Adjutant.

472 Post Commander Torres reported on the donations (11) to elementary schools and the American Legion Centennial Color Guard.

490 Post member Reported on several events of the post to include the monthly Steak Dinner for V A Hospital Veterans, and the project lead by Lynn Sparks & Robert Harvey to place a bench in the V A Cemetery donated by post 490.

521

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Letter to Post 594 from District Commander.

NEW BUSINESS

April 9th deadline date for 2019 Boys State Bus Waiver. A motion made by Butch Sparks to hold fast the date and that no waiver be accepted after that date. Seconded by James King. During discussion there was motion to amend by Vice Commander Woodstrom. The amendment was to extend the deadline to the date of the convention (4/13/2019). The original motion was amended to include the addition of the extension. Seconded by Commander Andrews. Motion passed.

Motion by Lynn Sparks to purchase a gift basket for 2nd Division Convention in the amount of \$100.00. Seconded by Vice Commander Woodstrom. Motion passed.

Motion to endorse the letter from District Commander to the Post requesting dates of

Motion by the Vice Commander to create a District program to, 1) Educated new Service Officers, 2) Update the knowledge of existing Service Officers, 3) Create a Service Officer directory for the District and, 4) Create a Service Officer community in the District with regular inter-agency meetings. Motion second by James King. Discussion followed. The motion was passed.

Announcement of Division Convention dates made, May 16,17,18 2019 in Willis, Texas.

Motion to elect Butch and Lynn Sparks as the 22nd District delegates to the National convention and pay the \$25.00 registration fee for both by Butch Sparks. Seconded by Harry Woodstrom. Motion passed.

Commander Thomas announced that there will training on service officer operations, and that all Post need to be represented. June 1st is the date the CPRs are to be in Department, and the Commander is looking for Post Officer Certification to be done by May 31st.

Post Elections'

Post 490 reported May 8, 2019 as their election date.

District Executive Committee Meeting (Proposed Dates)

June 8 2019, August 11, 2019, September 8, 2019, October 13, 2019, November 17, 2019, January 11, 2019, February 9, 2019, March 8, 2019, April 11, 2019, June 14, 2019, Commander requested that each Post look at the dates and commit to which date (s) that their Post could host the monthly meeting.

Department Commander Buckmaster gave greetings and commitments to the Convention. He highlighted such issues as suicides, women health issues, Cold War Veteran Recognition, Spousal benefits, legislature issues now before Congress, the Hazelwood Act and the fact that there is much support for Veteran issues.

Sigmund Fund Finance report given by Adjutant in the absence of the Fund's Finance Officer (Sheryll Jones).

Commander Thomas called the Convention to adjourn at 4:35pm

Convention Banquet convened at 5pm

