

**AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF TEXAS  
22<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
POST 472, 7599 Avenue C, Houston, Texas 77012**

**JUNE 27, 2021 -2PM**

Commander Thomas opened the DEC at Post 472, at 2:00 p.m., with ceremonial procedure per the American Legion Ceremonial Manual.

Roll Call by Adjutant. There was a quorum. 8 Post were present.

Commander Thomas introduced dignitaries National NEC, Past Dept. Commander, Past Dept. Vice Commander, Past District Commander Butch Sparks; Past Dept. Commander, Past Dept. Vice Commander, Past Division Commander, Past District Commander Lynn Sparks; and Past District Commander, Jimmy Mitchell.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**Vice Commander** Harry Woodstrom reported on the District's membership year as terrible. He made comments as to the Post's individual standings and provided a written report to the Adjutant with his findings.

**Adjutant** Jimmy Mitchell reminded all that as we come to the close of 2021, be prepared for the 2022 year's renewal opportunities. And that he is aware of their challenges with the system for membership entry.

**Finance Officer** Lynn Sparks presented the financial report and motioned that it be accepted as presented. Vice Commander Woodstrom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Chaplain** Robert Harvey No Report

**Sgt.-at-Arms** Jim McGuire reported that there were 14 present. He provided the Adjutant with a written report for filing.

**Committee Reports**

**Baseball** Commander Thomas reported that Posts 490 and 521 will be sponsoring teams this year. Playoff games being played in League City this year.

**Scouting** Commander Thomas informed the group of the fact that there many scouting events and activities currently in progress.

**Boys State** Jimmy Mitchell reported the virtual program was beginning today.

**Constitution & By-Laws** Chairman Butch Sparks reported that 22<sup>nd</sup> District's revised CB&Ls were received and approved by Dept. and will be sent to web master for posting.

**Legislature** update was provided by Commander Thomas with a very brief statement acknowledging the stalemate with Governor and Congress.

**Membership** Vice Commander Harry Woodstrom provided information on the two (2) posts in the District that attained 100% goal. Post 52 attained 100% goal and Post 164 attained 106.9%. He also

commented on methods to achieve the acceptable goal, to include “Buddy Check” Community events, DMS transfers and our primary effort, retention. He informed us that we are 18<sup>th</sup> of 23 Districts. Dept. is 50 of 55 Depts., Texas is 85.30% of goal, and Mexico is the only Department of 55 Departments to make goal.

**Hubmaster** gave a reminder to all, when there is information you want distributed, forward to him for immediate distribution. He also noted that there is a serious lack of leadership when it comes to making sure information is passed down from the Department level. He also stated that he needs the name and email address of the Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant and Hubmaster of every Post in the 22nd District.

Commander noted that Leadership at the National level has some responsibility for the shrinking membership as well. He commented that offering the same product with no improvement asking for cost increase, isn't the way to increase membership. He also asked a question, "What has the Legion done in the past 50 years?" He noted rather than wait for National, we need to get out into the communities and promote the Legion. NEC Sparks noted as example of doing worth while things in the community, look at the activities of Post 472. They are continuously involved in local events and activities that have brought honor and creditability to Post 472.

#### **Unfinished Business**

None

#### **New Business**

Commander Thomas yielded the floor to Legionnaire Woods of Post 416 to bring to the meeting the multiple events that need Post assistance. The events are listed below as follows, Packs for Brats, Veteran tickets, Fundraising opportunity needing a Post sponsor, a JROTC Rifle purchasing sponsorship, and support of a Women Veterans Focus Group. Written copy of the support elements provided for filing. She made a motion for the 22nd District to send a letter of congratulations to one of her members that recently turned 100. Seconded by Butch Sparks. Motion Carried.

Commander Thomas informed the DEC that currently we have several open Committee Chairman positions that need to be filled, Historian, SAL Advisor, Oratorical, and Service Officer. Mike Lacy was brought into the discussion as a possible option for Service Officer. A motion was made by Butch Sparks to appoint Harry Woodstrom as Oratorical Chair. Seconded by Lynn Sparks. Motion carried.

Commander Thomas read his resignation to the DEC. His stated reason was due to the ongoing volatile situation between himself and the Department Commander. At this point the gavel was passed to Vice Commander Woodstrom. Motion by Adjutant Jimmy Mitchell to reject the resignation. Seconded by Ed Ruhnke Jr. Discussion revealed other members in support of Commander Thomas fulfilling the remainder of his tour.

Next 22<sup>nd</sup> DEC is July 18, 2021 at either Post 654 or Post 164.

Siegmund Fund Meeting June 29, 2021 via Zoom at 7pm. Vice Commander Woodstrom will send invite to members.

## **GOOD OF THE LEGION**

Adjutant Mitchell gave a brief overview of the purpose, mission and current posture of the American Veterans Museum project.

Legionnaire Woods, Post 416, made a request for financial support from the District for a local JROTC unit. The matter needs to be discussed at Post level.

Harry Woodstrom announced that Post 164 is selling fireworks for the 4th of July.

Commander seeing that no further business was coming before the DEC, adjourned the DEC in the usual manner at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimmy Mitchell  
Adjutant