



22nd District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

MINUTES

November 17, 2024

American Legion Post 164 Katy

The 22nd District Executive Committee Meeting was held on November 17, 2024, at.

District Vice Commander Robert Harvey called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies were conducted in due form.

Roll Call of Officers and Posts

All current District Officers except the District Commander were in attendance. The district still has vacancies for a Service Officer and Public Relations Officer. All posts except 391, 416, 472, 596, and 654 were represented. According to Judge Advocate Jimmy Mitchell we had a quorum.

District Vice Commander Harvey acknowledged Past NECman Butch Sparks, Past State Commander Lynn Sparks, Past Division & 22nd District Commander Jimmy Mitchell, Past District Commanders, Harry Woodstrom, Jim McGuire, and Joseph Thomas, Past District Commander, and current SAL Commander for the 2nd Division. Also in attendance were Gene Britton, Commander of Squadron 164 in Katy and Max Maxwell, Finance Officer of Squadron 208 in Kerrville.

District Vice Commander Harvey then introduced Past Department Vice Commander, 3rd Division Richard Huntley who addressed the body. He informed the body that he was a candidate for State Commander for 2025-2026 and asked for our support. He also informed the body that he is the Boys State Chair for the Department this year and that the enrollment fee is now \$400 per boy.

District Vice Commander Harvey then introduced Thom Skelly, member of Squadron 208 in Kerrville, Texas. Thom informed the body that he was a candidate for National Commander, Sons of the American Legion for the year 2026-2027 and asked for everyone's support.

Officer Reports:

Finance Officer Lynn Sparks read the District Finance Report (ATTCH1). Motion by Lynn to accept the report, second by J. T. Thomas. Motion accepted.

Judge Advocate Jimmy Mitchell asked members to review our 22nd District C&BL's and provide him recommended changes that can be addressed. He hopes to get a revised edition completed and approved for submission to the Department at our Spring Convention.

Chaplain Bruce Pettengill informed the body that there will be 4 Chaplains ceremony on February 15, 2024, in Katy. Details to follow.

Historian Hector Hernandez reported that he is working with posts to get information on their history so he can work on the District Yearbook. He also gave a verbal report on the history of Post 164 in Katy.

Sergeant -At-Arms J. T. Thomas said there were twenty-one members and 3 guests in attendance. (ATTCH 2)

Vice Commander Robert Harvey provided an update on District Membership. According to the numbers the 22nd District is falling way behind in membership, and everyone needs to take action to get our members on board. (ATTCH 3)

Post Reports:

Post 52 – Post Adjutant read his report (ATTCH 4)

Post 77- Post Commander Hernandez read his report to the body. (ATTCH 5)

Post 164- Post Commander Krum read his report to the body (ATTCH 6)

Post 319- Post Adjutant Sherry Thomas read her report to the body. (ATTCH 7)

Post 391 – No Report- Absent

Post 416 – No Report- Absent

Post 472 – No Report- Absent

Post 490 – Post Commander Rene Sanchez highlighted the post's activities. (ATTCH 8)

Post 521 – Post Commander Robert Harvey highlighted the post's activities. (ATTCH 9)

Post 596 – No Report - Absent

Post 654 – No report - Absent

Committee Reports by Chairs that were at the meeting:

Boys State; Oratorical; Webmaster – Chairman Woodstrom provided a verbal overview of these important topics (ATTCH 10) Harry also provided the body the website for our 22nd District. It is www.legiondist22.com. Also please check the web site to make sure the information in your post is correct.

Americanism/School Awards – Chairman Jimmy Mitchell asked the posts to see him after the meeting and provide him their post points of contacts for these important programs. (ATTCH 11)

Community Service – Chairperson Sherry Thomas provided an overview of community activities by posts that have provided her input. She congratulated Post 164 for accumulating over 2000 hours of community support this year to date. (ATTCH 12)

Constitution and By-Laws: Chair Butch Sparks asked posts to review their C&BL's and if needed they should be revised and sent to Department for review and approval.

Hubmaster – Chair Butch Sparks informed attendees that he sends out information as he receives it and if posts want information sent out to other posts within the district, please send it to him for distribution.

Membership – Division Membership Chair Butch Sparks provides membership stats for the district on a weekly basis. A copy of the latest report is attached. (ATTCH 13)

POW/MIA – Chairman Hector Hernandez highlighted the status of this program. He also invited posts to attend the National Cemetery Council meetings held the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Heritage Funeral Home which is located adjacent to the Houston National Cemetery.

Advisor to the S.A.L. – Advisor Jimmy Mitchell provided an overview of the 22nd Squadron's data.

Scouting – Chairman J.T. Thomas informed the body of the available 2nd Division Scholarship for \$1000 that is given out to a Scout each year. Asked the body to contact him for more details.

School Awards – Chair Jimmy Mitchell discussed the importance of School Awards.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

Butch Sparks read Richard Huntley's resolution for Department State Commander for the year 2025-2026 and moved that the 22nd District endorse Legionnaire Huntley for his office. Jim McGuire seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Harry Woodstrom made a motion to raise the District Nursing Scholarship to \$1000. Sandy Krum seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Harry will update the application form will send it to the appropriate committee members.

Good of The Legion:

Vice Commander Harvey said our next D.E.C. will be on February 16, 2025, at Post 521 in Pasadena starting at 2 p.m.

Jimmy Mitchell discussed the Department Drill Team competition and that there were no participants this year. We need to work to have one from our District next year.

Harry Woodstrom gave an overview of the Siegmund Fund.

Members from Post 319 presented a donation check to Thom Skelly to assist in his candidacy for National Commander of the Sons for year 26-27.

Closing Ceremonies were held in due form.

Butch Sparks

22nd District Adjutant

Enclosures

The American Legion

22nd District Sign In Date 11/17/2024

| NAME | POST# | POSITION |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <u>Sandy Krum</u> | <u>164</u> | <u>COMMANDER</u> |
| 2. <u>Russ Tolleson</u> | <u>164</u> | <u>MEMBER</u> |
| 3. <u>Sherry Thomas</u> | <u>319</u> | <u>Adjutant</u> |
| 4. <u>Harry Woodstrom</u> | <u>164</u> | <u>Finance</u> |
| 5. <u>W. A. Cuning</u> | <u>164</u> | <u>—</u> |
| 6. <u>PETER COOL</u> | <u>164</u> | <u>CHAPLAIN</u> |
| 7. <u>J. Thomas</u> | <u>319</u> | <u>Dist. SAA</u> |
| 8. <u>LYNN SPARKS</u> | <u>319</u> | <u>FIN. OFF.</u> |
| 9. <u>Robert HARRIS</u> | <u>521</u> | <u>VICE COMM</u> |
| 10. <u>Bob SPARKS</u> | <u>164</u> | <u>Adjutant Dist</u> |
| 11. <u>HELEN HEINMANN</u> | <u>77</u> | <u>COMMANDER</u> |
| 12. <u>Timothy M. Hill</u> | <u>77</u> | <u>Judge Advocate</u> |
| 13. <u>ERNEST CORNZE</u> | <u>164</u> | <u>TRUSTEE</u> |
| 14. <u>RICH HUNTER</u> | <u>554</u> | <u>BOYS STATE CHAIR</u> |
| 15. <u>JIM MCGUIRE</u> | <u>164</u> | <u>—</u> |
| 16. <u>WILLIAM KENNISON</u> | <u>164</u> | <u>POST 164 ADJUTANT</u> |
| 17. <u>DENNIS WELLS</u> | <u>164</u> | <u>1ST VICE</u> |
| 18. <u>JOAN "MAX" MAXWELL</u> | <u>208</u> | <u>FINANCE OFFICER</u> |

(ATTN 2)

The American Legion

22nd District Sign In Date _____

| NAME | POST# | POSITION |
|-----------------|----------|---------------|
| 1. Thom Skelley | SQD. 208 | Nobody |
| 2. Rene Sanchez | 490 | Commander |
| 3. Don Quintero | 52 | Adjutant |
| 4. LAEXWOODS | 77 | VICECOMMANDER |
| 5. Gene Britton | 164 SAL | |
| 6. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 7. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 8. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 9. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 10. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 11. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 12. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 13. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 14. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 15. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 16. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 17. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 18. _____ | _____ | _____ |

(ATTCH 2)

Vice Commander's Report 11/17/24

District is currently at 60.61% of our goal for 2024-2025. This is 14.97% lower than this time last year. We need to step up our efforts, or we'll be sitting at the back of the room at the convention.

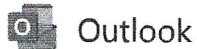
The membership goal for November is 65%, the following posts are below this goal: 77,472,490,596, and 654.

Congratulations to those posts that are above the 65% goal.

I have emailed every post's commander and adjutant a spreadsheet of the members in the Houston area listed in post 345. If you didn't get a copy, please see me after the meeting and give me your email.

If you need assistance feel free to contact me and we can work together. At post 521 we've asked businesses if we could set up a tent with information about the Legion. Some have offered a percentage of their profits will we're there. A double win.

(ATTCH 3)



Post 52 Report

From Don Quintero <don.quintero@att.net>

Date Sat 11/16/2024 10:46 PM

To butchsparks@outlook.com <butchsparks@outlook.com>

Post 52 Report

Post 52 has had a busy November

Our post meeting on November 2 we welcomed our recent TX Boy's State participants who gave a full report of their experiences. Post 52 is committed to TBS 2025 and will sponsor youth again. We plan to host a TBS open house at St. Thomas HS and kick off recruiting in January.

Post 52 ratified 2025 budget at our meeting. Also began discussion about divesting in current Annuities position to reinvest in advisors shares for better returns.

Post 52 participated in Veterans Day parade.

Post 52 attended TBS zoom meeting detailing new docusign application process.

Next post meeting is scheduled for February 1. We've successfully recruited and renewed sufficient members to achieve goal above 65%.

In closing know that Post 52 is looking forward to a great 2025.

Sent from my iPhone

TAL DEC Meeting - 17 Nov 2024

Membership

- **POST:** New 3 PUFL 54 Renewal 84 HQ Trans 1 Total 142 Goal 219 % of Goal 64.84
- **SAL:** New ___ PUFL ___ Renewal ___ HQ Trans ___ Total ___ Goal ___ % of Goal _____

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

- **HOMELESS VETERANS:** Had a booth at the 2024 Houston Stand Down with over 800 registered veterans, 237 veterans stopped by our table, 6 new members from the event, 16 veterans in need of immediate assistance with 7 more in need.
- **HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS:** Housed a female veteran for 1 week as she awaited her disability to move to new location.
- **VA TAILGATING SERIES:** September was HBCU hosted by TSU Army ROTC Battalion (*BBQ by Smoke, a veteran owned small business*); October was Air Force vs Navy (*Food by HEB, a military friendly business*); November was Army vs Air Force (*Gourmet Hot Dogs by Top Dog, a veteran owned small business*)
- **BAYLAND PARK STEERING COMMITTEE:** Incorporating Veteran artwork, sensory paths, dog park area in the new upgrades to our meeting home.

National Security

- **TSU CAREER DAY:** Hosted by TSU ROTC
- **AD FEMALE:** Assisted in 1 night hotel stay for AD member in a stalking situation. Community Partner Central Houston Nissan inspected her car for tracking software and assisted in HPD report filing. Member is now in the military support program for further assistance.
- **RELIEF & APPOINTMENT CEREMONY:** USMC RS Houston Sergeant Major Change of Command at City Hall
- **HOUSTON MEPS:** Quarterly Training assistance

Americanism

- **ORATORICAL:** Miss Eve Rollins (North Forest HS) will go forth to represent the post. The post will sponsor a few other schools represented: Sharpstown, Northside, Royal, Furr, Windmill Lakes Orem, Energized for STEM Academy as our post Legionnaires are also JROTC Instructors at the various high schools. This year's event was hosted by Sharpstown HS with North Forest volunteering to host next year.
- **BOYS & GIRLS STATE LUNCHEON:** _____ Post candidates came together to recap their experiences from this summer.

(ATTCH 5)

- **VETERANS DAY COLOR GUARD:** Provided assistance for multiple Veterans Day Color Guard programs throughout the Greater Houston area

Children & Youth

- **USMC KIDS NITE:** 249th USMC Ball; 16 Volunteers from Windmill Lakes-Orem HS MCJROTC; 11 military kids (down from 23); Pizza, Cake Cutting, and Photo Booth

Upcoming Events

- **KENDRA SCOTT GIVES BACK:** 24 November at 3 locations in the Houston area (*Highland Park/Galleria, Houston Heights, and City Center*) as well as online promotion for 2 days.
- **ORNAMENT FUNDRAISER:** Online Fundraiser for scholarships
- **TOYS FOR TOTS:** Partnership with the 1/23 USMC and RS Houston
- **VA CHRISTMAS STORE:** Week of 29 November- 5 December at the VA. Volunteers from our JROTC Units will be on hand to assist the Auxiliary as needed.
- **VA TAILGATING SERIES:** Last game of the season as it The American Legion sponsored Army vs Navy game on 14 December. All are welcome to attend. Doors open at 1 pm in the CLC at the VA.
- **CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONIES:** Houston MEPS, RS Houston, & Texas National Guard
- **FISHER HOUSE LEGION DAYS:** 2nd Fridays at lunch starting in January 2025. Food and games will be available. All are invited.
- **MARDI GRAS BALL & PARADE:** Post Fundraiser and representation in the Galveston Mardi Gras Parade on 1 March 2025. Respectfully ask fellow posts to purchase an ad in the commemorative book.



The American Legion
Jonathan D. Rozier Post No. 164

22125 Kingsland Blvd.
Katy, Texas 77450

Post 164 Commanders Report

Post 164 has been very busy since our last meeting.

We have been a part of our community in a big way. The post has participated in the Katy Rice Harvest Festival Parade and the Katy Rice Harvest Festival, and the Katy Safety Fest where had an information booth. We have been a part of the City of Katy's 9-11 Ceremony. Our Honor Guard has been a part of the opening ceremonies for the Katy Tri Athlon, the VFW 5/10/20K run, and the Grand Opening of the newest Home Depot Store in Katy. We have been to the schools to train their flag patrols in the proper way to fold, raise and lower the flags. Our Honor Guard and post members were very busy with Veteran's Day events all over the greater Houston Area.

We are working with the VFW here in Katy, to hold a fun bingo event once a month at No Label Brewery in Katy.

The Post has started to collaborate with Katy Christian Ministries and the VFW here in Katy to help our veterans in need of financial or food assistance, so we can get them the services needed.

We assist the Auxiliary of Unit 164 by having at least one post member at every one of their tables for Pies for Hope, Wreaths Across America, and Poppy Hand Outs.

The commander accompanied the unit president and several other auxiliary members in presenting a check for \$500 and over 100 pies for the residents of Camp Hope.

The post continues to hold our monthly "Breakfast with a Veteran" event.



The American Legion
Jonathan D. Rozier Post No. 164

22125 Kingsland Blvd.
Katy, Texas 77450

WE CONDUCTED DISTRICT/DIVISION SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING WITH MIKE LACY

Currently our membership stands at 67.20%.

Coming up will be our collaboration with Katy Christian Ministries in providing 100 Thanksgiving meals to area veterans in need.

The post is also teamed up with Operation Home Front to hand out additional food supplies to area veterans in need.

We will host the 10th Annual Gary A. Tillman 1st Responders Recognition and Awards Banquet.

We will be spearheading the Wreaths Across America ceremony where Department Commander Tom Marty will be our guest speaker.

We are working with the VA Clinic here in Katy to ensure that in veterans family get gifts to give to their children.

Then to close out the year we will be conducting our fireworks sales as a fundraiser.

Respectfully submitted

Sandy Krum

Commander

Post 164



PO Box 2052, Deer Park, TX 77536
713-859-7603

Post 319 performed the following activities since our last DEC:

Sponsored 5 students with music education at a value of \$250.

Assisted in the Pasadena Livestock Show & Rodeo Parade, including assisting with the special needs section. Sponsored a trophy for the best JROTC unit in the parade.

3 members participated in the CERT train the trainer

Participated in the Deer Park Trunk or Treat handing out over 230 Halloween Safety Books and boxes of crayons.

Held the annual First Responder's Banquet

Met with State Representative Briscoe Caine

Presented to the Deer Park Rotary Club

Guest speaker at the La Porte High School Veteran's Day program with 2,500 people including Mayor, Superintendent, School Board, Chief and Asst. Chief of police.

In December, we will be feeding 30 families in Deer Park and La Porte for Christmas. We will also be presenting teddy bears to all first responders in both communities. Lastly, we will be participating in Wreaths Across America with Grandview Funeral Home.

Sincerely,

Joseph Thomas
Chaplain – Cortez/Norris Post 319
jthomas77504@yahoo.com
713-859-7603

(ATTCH 7)

South Houston Post 490 – Commander’s Report

District 22 Executive Committee

November 17, 2024

- September 7th - Celebration of Life for Veteran at Post 521
- September 21 - Attended Department Fall Convention – Training Session
- October 19th - Attended District 22nd Officer’s Training in Katy Post 164 (six officers)
- November 11th - Eleven 50 Year Continuous Membership Awards to Post Members
- November 11th - Veterans Day Celebration at Post 521 -free food to veterans and their families
 - Sponsors: HEB, Walmart
- Continued Post Contributions to Siegmund Foundations.
- Chaplain Thomas Collins is doing an excellent job with veterans and their families.
- Post 490 Scholarship Approved for 2025 – Published at events and Post media.
- Elected Casey Coyle as Assistant Sergeant at Arms
- Approved motion to donate \$100 to Shriners Hospital Burn Unit in Galveston, Tx

Community Outreach

- October 3 - Friendswood Chamber of Commerce Meeting – Auxiliary Unit 490 Spotlight Table
- October 12 - Post 490 represented at Pursuit of Honor, Courage, and Commitment (Article in November Issue of Legion Times)
- October 26-27 - Air Show Viewing at Post 490 parking lot (Article submitted for December Issue of Legion Times) – Event drew around 1,000 from the local community. Blue Angels were amazing
 - V.A. staff transported forty veterans. Post 490 provided veterans free meals and accommodation.
 - Sponsors: Lite Bunch Cooking Team and HEB
- Veteran Day Activities – will submit article to Legion Times on the following:
 - November 7th - Veterans Day Celebration at the Friendswood Senior Center. Auxiliary Unit 490 decorated the hall with veteran’s memorabilia. District 22 Commander and Post 490 Commander spoke.
 - November 8th - Post 490 invited to attend South Houston Intermediate School Veterans Day Celebration – met South Houston Mayor and School Board Counsel Member. Great Event. Mayor presented each veteran with a certificate.

(ATTCH 8)

- November 8th – Post attended Kemah Boardwalk Veteran Day Luncheon. Post 490 Member Eliu Rojas spoke.
- November 8th – Post 490 and Post 554 Riders Squadron and Legionnaires invited to attend Veterans Day Celebration at Veterans Memorial Stadium. American Legion Riders rode on the field. Parachutists present two football helmets to two WWII Veterans.
- November 11th – Post 490 invited to attend Veterans Day Celebration at Clear Lake High School. Post 490 commander presented \$500 to CLHS Jr. ROTC.
- November 14th – Friendswood Chamber of Commerce –Auxiliary Unit 490 and Legionnaires highlighted the American Legion at Spotlight Table.
- 2nd Annual Chili Cook Off at Cheers Pub – the Pub chose Post 490 as their organization this year. They donated All proceeds from event to Post 490.
 - **Special thanks to Cheers Pub.**
 - **i45NOW** (media platform) interviewed Post 490 officers.

Upcoming Events

- January 20th – South Houston Chamber of Commerce Thanksgiving Luncheon
- December 7th - Friendswood Flap Jack 5K
- December 21st - Christmas Party at Post 521
 - Purchased **fifty** meals to distribute during Christmas
- January 11th – Chili Cookoff – Post 490 Riders
- February 20th - Post 490 Cruise
- March 15th – Fundraiser – Gold Bar

Membership

- Post has 702 members (54.93%).
 - 51 new members
 - Need to work on renewals
- Will start sending weekly renewal emails and phone calls to members.

Enhance and Improve Communication Methods

- Weekly Post 490 Email Blast - Fantastic job by **Richard Hughes and Wendell Denney** on keeping American Legion members updated and engaged.
- Weekly Membership Newsletter – continues to keep membership engaged.
 - Section on Newsletter – Post Everlasting – added members
 - Invitation to National Night Out at San Jacinto College – Police Department

(ATTCH 8COU)

Building

- The Board of Trustees continues to maintain post property. Excellent job by Board of Trustees (**Earl McLearen (Chair), Rickie Smith, Terry Contella, Jesse Martinez**)
- Provided City of Houston a Signed Deed to correct defect original deed with Phillips 66 encroachment
- Two success fundraisers (Airshow/Henry Tribute Rifles) – raised approximately \$12K
- Texans donated CJ Stroud and Daniel Hunter autographed photo and football
- General Liability Renewed – it was a challenge to find an agency that would insure property with plane on it.

Finance/Budget

- Monthly Finance Committee Meetings – Great job budgeting and fiscal management. Post has increased Operating Cash Balances by 400% since this point in time last year.
- Post 490 Financial Audit - Audit completed by independent auditor on September 14th. Special Recognition to Ms. Alicia Wilson Auditor

(ATTACH 8 cont)

Edward H. White II Post 521 Report 11/17/24

August

Loaned our hall for the Disabled American Veterans for a fundraising dinner.

September

Held our Boys and Girls ceremony honoring those that when to state.

October

Had a fund raiser and member recruiting at Texas Longhorn.

We had trunk or treat for the area children.

November

The Auxiliary hosted a potluck dinner for the neighborhood veterans and families.

Post 490 provided Veterans Day meal at post 521 for a group veterans dinner.

We are having our post family Thanksgiving dinner today, which I'm missing!

Additionally, we continued to sell meals on Fridays to raise money for the post.

Our Memorial team participated in three memorial services. They also were involved in a flag folding service at Madison Jobe Senior Citizen Center for Veterans Day. The team did a flag retirement service at a remodeled Walmart in Friendswood.

(ATTCH 9)

11/17/2024

Boys State

The nomination process for Boys State has started. The steps include:

- 1) Program awareness
- 2) Statesmen Nomination
- 3) Candidate interviews
- 4) Boys State Application
- 5) Transportation and Tuition Management
- 6) Boys State Attendance
- 7) Statesmen recognition at the Post.

Oratorical

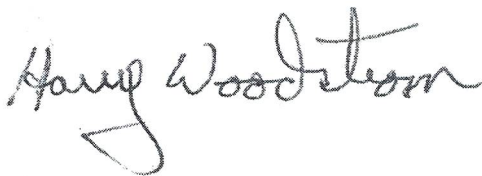
Oratorical has started: Post should have their contest between November 1, 2024 and December 20, 2025. The 22nd District Oratorical contest will be held on January 12th, 2025 at Katy Post 164 starting at 2pm. If posts in the 22nd District are somehow delayed in conducting their Oratorical contest, the District will accept entries as late as close of business on Saturday January 11th. All entries must use the Oratorical winner form distributed today. Be sure to send the form to hwoodstrom@woodborne.com.

WebMaster

Common scams that veterans may encounter include: (See Attached)

Nursing Scholarship

A new Nursing Scholarship Application for has been developed. The major change is the Scholarship increase to \$1,000. The committee will seek approval of this change as well as approval to use the new application form during new business.



Respectfully,

Harry Woodstrom

(ARCH 10)

Howdy 2024 Texas Boys State nominators!

My name is Alex Rose and I'm the Assistant Director of Outreach with the American Legion Texas Boys State program. We would love to have your student-leaders represented once more at TXBS. This is a once-in-a-lifetime leadership capstone experience for rockstar Juniors from **June 8-13, 2025**. While at UT Austin, they learn to lead alongside over 1,100 of their best and brightest peers from across Texas. About me: I'm an active-duty US Army Captain, law student at SMU, Texas A&M Former Student, and proud former Boys Statesman myself. [Texas Boys State](#) strives to **make good young men better** at a formative time in their lives.

We want your schools' nominations of rockstar Junior boys and have an all-new all-online application workflow! Our rule of thumb for nominations is generally the holistic Top 5-10% of a school's eligible male Juniors, but this is flexible. This is the **only opportunity** that current Juniors will have to attend. **Finances are not a constraint – merit is.** The only costs to Statesmen are generally for T-shirts, souvenirs, and transportation. We welcome Statesmen from public, private, charter, and home-school backgrounds. We are working with the University of Texas to accommodate up to 1,200 rising Seniors.

*NOTE: If you already have a relationship with a local Post, **please contact them** for information on local policies and processes. They will remain your best Point of Contact! Please use the [Find-A-Post tool here](#) or the [Blue Book file here](#) to find your local Post(s).*
Why TXBS?

Each summer for over 75 years, the weeklong Texas Boys State program has used the concept of "Learn by Doing" to teach these core principles:

- * A better understanding of how to build consensus through civil discourse, campaigning, oratory, debate, and relationship building
- * Knowledge of the American and Texan two-party political system and how to put that learning into practice through servant leadership
- * New and lasting friendships with a diverse cross-section of high-achieving and dedicated young men from across the state of Texas

The New and Improved All-Online Process

To be selected for TXBS 2025 through the new automated workflow:

1. First, we hope schools will canvass their current Juniors to find available and interested candidates that they believe will excel amongst their peers at TXBS. Educators (including administrators, counselors, teachers, coaches, and more) should their rockstars! The number of nominees is usually no more than 5-10% of eligible male junior enrollment, but this is often flexible. We recommend schools do this between now and January. [All prospective Statesmen must apply with this form.](#) We are looking for the best-and-brightest rising Seniors who have demonstrated character, competence, passion, and potential. NOTE: Double-check all email addresses; typos may prevent your application from being considered.

2. All prospective Statesmen must have **Parent/Guardian** approval.

3. All prospective Statesmen must be nominated by a **School Nominator**. This is any educator (Supintendent, Principal, Teacher, Coach, Counselor, etc) who knows

(ATTACH TO CON)

the student well and and can vouch for them. We hope schools will nominate their best and brightest leaders in student government, athletics, NHS, activism, theatre, JROTC, band, or just those who show unique potential. These are the boys with strong interpersonal, oratorical, and academic skills who serve as leaders by example at their school. While TXBS is for male students to attend between their Junior and Senior years, [Texas Bluebonnet Girl's State](#) offers an outstanding experience for young women leaders as well. Their program can be reached here: girlsstate@alateexas.org

4. All prospective Statesmen must be interviewed/approved by an **American Legion** Post. Please use the [Find-A-Post tool here](#) or the [Blue Book file here](#) to find your local Post(s) especially if you already have a pre-existing relationship between your school/district and that Post. No student can attend TXBS without the interview and approval of a Legion Post, and we strongly encourage using the tools above to find your local Post(s) before completing the Educator Nomination form.

5. All prospective Statesmen must be **financially sponsored**. The Financial Sponsor is often the Legion Post, family, school, or local community organizations or businesses. In exceptional cases, there is also limited scholarship funding available. Our team will work with any and all Statesmen to ensure that merit, and not finances, determine who will represent their school at Texas Boys State.

NOTE: This is an automated workflow that will automatically send the next form to the listed person for steps 2-5. Mistyped email addresses will prevent applications from continuing to the next person in the workflow.

Please direct all questions to your local Legion Post and/or admin@texasboysstate.com. Thanks and good luck!

In Conclusion

We are excited and ready to help schools through the application process and generous donors have made scholarships available to ensure as many qualified young men attend as possible. Please **forward this email** and my information to any other leaders and educators who may be interested in nominating student-leaders. I look forward to hearing from you and am happy to help in any way that I can.

Thank you for all you do for your students and have a wonderful day,

-Alex

PS: If you are interested in serving on our all-volunteer Staff, please apply below!



Alexander L. Rose,
M.A.
Captain, U.S. Army

Assistant Director for Outreach, Texas Boys State
American Legion Department of Texas

214.226.2481 (Text) | alrose@smu.edu

[Student Application](#) now live for TXBS 2025!
[Staff Application](#) now live for TXBS 2025!

(Attach to Court)

TEXAS



BOYS STATE

FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS, THE PATH TO SUCCESS
LEADS TO BOYS STATE

THE ULTIMATE CAPSTONE

Current Juniors Who Are:

Academically Excellent
Leaders
Community-Minded
Extracurricular Achievers
Team Players

**TEXAS
BOYS STATE
2025**

Become Citizens Who Are:

Top Scholars
Tested Leaders
Empathetic
Active and Involved
Team Builders

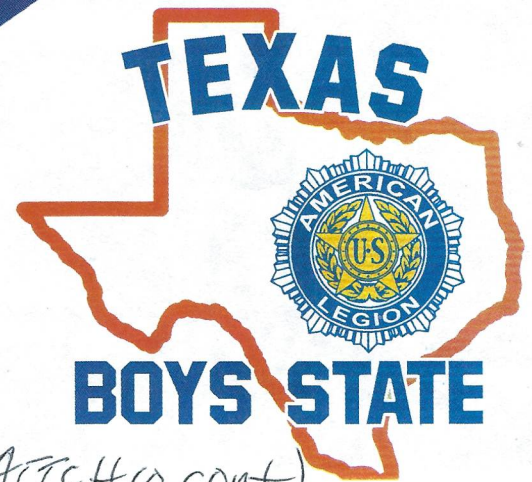
"We view this program as one that brings together students who have exhibited strong academic potential, solid leadership skills, dedicated commitment to service, and strength in character."

Dr. Alice Reinartz, Assistant Provost
Texas A&M University

Build your community.
Be a part of Texas Boys
State 2025. Write us at:

ContactUs@TexasBoysState.com

June 8-13, 2025
University of Texas - Austin
TexasBoysState.com





The American Legion, Department of Texas Oratorical Contestant Winner Registration Form

_____ American Legion Post # _____ District _____ Division _____
(Post Name)

Certifies the following Oratorical Contestant from:

High School, Charter School, Home School

Contestants Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Mailing Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Chaperone/Escort

Mailing address for Chaperone/Escort

Phone Number _____ Date _____

Signature of Oratorical Chair

Signature of Commander or Adjutant

Instructions and Mailing address

Pursuant of the actions of the Department Executive Committee, September 23, 1959, all participants in the Oratorical contest will be certified by this form to the Department Headquarters within 3 days of the completion of the competition. Contestants not properly certified may **NOT** be eligible to advance and compete in any future contest for that given year. Copy this form as needed.

Send the information to the Oratorical Chair at the next level and Michaels@txlegion.org
The American Legion, Department of Texas Oratorical Program Box 140527, Austin, TX 78714

(ATTACH 10 cont)

"A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST"

Contact your local American Legion Post through www.legion.org/posts

2025 ORATORICAL CONTEST:

The Oratorical Scholarship Program in Texas will begin in November 2024 when high school students will enter competition to qualify for the National Oratorical Program, with an ultimate award of \$203,500 in scholarships. Posts and schools may hold local contests during the fall of 2024 if they so desire. Whenever possible, it is recommended that the Oratorical Program be presented before the student body of a high school. It is strongly recommended that the National Rules be strictly followed in all contests.

SELECTION OF CONTESTANTS AND DATES:

1. Each public high school, private school, charter school, and home schooled, with grades 9 thru 12 that is sponsored by their local The American Legion Post, can advance 1 contestant to the district level. Local contests must begin after November 1, 2024, and must be completed by December 20, 2024. Contests should be conducted using National rules. **Winners are to be certified by the local American Legion Oratorical Chair/Commander, who will then notify the District Oratorical Chair, and Department of the local winner.**
2. District Contests shall be held on or after December 21, 2024, but not later than January 24, 2025, at such place as may be directed by the District Chair **and the winner certified to the Division Oratorical Chair and department by the District Oratorical chair/Commander.** Contests should be conducted using National rules.
3. Division Contests shall be held on or after January 25, 2025, but not later than February 9, 2025, at such place as may be directed by the Division Chair, **and the winner certified by each Division Oratorical Chair/Commander to Department Headquarters, P.O. Box 140527, Austin TX 78714. michaels@txlegion.org.** The contest should be held in accordance with national rules. Should the winner decline to participate in the Department Finals for any reason, the first runner-up should then be certified as the participant by the Division Chairperson/commander. Contests should be conducted using National rules.

ATTCH 10 (cont)

4. The American Legion, Department of Texas, Oratorical Program Finals, will be held Monday, February 17, 2025 (February 24 ALTERNATE) Contest **WILL** be conducted using National rules.

SUPERVISION OF CONTEST:

The Oratorical Chairperson in charge of each Contest shall have full control and supervision of each Contest and his/her decisions shall be final. The Department Oratorical Chair will direct the Department Contest. Official judging cards, tabulation forms, and timekeeper forms can be found in the Post Oratorical Chair's Guide. Extra forms can be furnished upon request.

AWARDS:

1. The American Legion Post may present a scholarship or such awards to the winner of the High School Contest as it chooses so long as such awards has **NO** cash value. The scholarship must be paid to the college or university of the student's choice in the student's name to be credited in the student's name once proof of enrollment has been received. A deadline for the payment should be established by the awarding organization.
2. The American Legion, Department of Texas, will award: Each Division winner will receive a certificate for participation in the Department Finals and a medal for their standing in the contest.
3. The Department will award a \$2,000 scholarship to the college of his/her choice; 2nd place - \$1,500 scholarship; 3rd place \$1,000 scholarship; and 4th place \$500 scholarship (provided the winner enters college within 1 year after graduation from high school).
4. The Department Champion will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship from National provided he/she participates in the Quarter Finals Contest and an additional \$2,000 scholarship from National if the participant advances to the Semi Finals Contest and does not advance to the National Finals. Competitors in the National Finals are awarded scholarships as follows; 1st - \$25,000; 2nd - \$22,500; 3rd - \$20,000.

FINANCES:

1. The Department assumes no liability for the expenses of any individual contestant in connection with any High School, District or Division Contest.
2. Expenses of .14¢ per mile round trip for contestant and one adult in car for Division winners will be paid by the Department traveling to the State Contest. (**No air travel is authorized.**) Such expenses will be paid to the adult chaperon or to the Post. No monies are to be paid directly to the contestant to protect his/her future eligibility to

(ARCH 10 cont)

participate in the University Interscholastic League. Contestant's actual expenses will not be reimbursed.

3. The winner of the Department Contest will represent the State of Texas in the National Contests and expenses for such contestants will be provided in accordance with the National Rules.

COPIES OF MANUSCRIPT:

All Division Winners **MUST** submit one copy of their prepared oration to the Department Chair or their designated representative before competing in the State Final Contest. (This copy is to be forwarded by the Department Chairperson to Department Headquarters for record purposes along with the Chair's written report.)

Assigned Topics for 2025 Oratorical Contest

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, then according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment XVIII

Section 1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XXVI

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

(ATTACH 10 CONT)

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article with appropriate legislation.

Complete Oratorical Program Information: <https://www.legion.org/oratorical/about>

Oratorical Chairman's Guide

<https://www.legion.org/publications/248154/oratorical-chairmans-guide>

Oratorical Resources

<https://www.legion.org/oratorical/resources>

Oratorical Registration Form

[https://txlegion.org/Files/Winner Registration form.pdf](https://txlegion.org/Files/Winner%20Registration%20form.pdf)

Oratorical Brochure

<https://www.legion.org/publications/160905/oratorical-contest-promotional-brochure>

Oratorical Forms

Judging, Scoring & Tabulation

<https://www.legion.org/oratorical/resources>

News Releases/PSA Templates

<https://www.legion.org/publications/248154/oratorical-chairmans-guide>

National Speech & Debate Association Information Request

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/nsda-local-contact-request/>

(ATTACH 10cont)

Top Scams Targeting Veterans and How to Avoid Them

Veterans are often targeted by scammers due to their service and benefits. Here are some of the most common scams and tips on how to avoid them:

1. Romance Scams

Scammers create fake online relationships to exploit veterans' emotions and financial stability. They often pose as attractive individuals on dating apps or support forums¹. Once trust is established, they ask for money under false pretenses, such as medical emergencies or travel expenses.

Tip: Be cautious of online relationships that move quickly and request money. Verify the identity of the person you're communicating with.

2. Veterans' Benefit Scams

Scammers claim to help veterans increase their benefits or expedite claims but are really after personal information or fees. They may contact veterans by phone, email, or text, promising new or additional benefits¹.

Tip: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Always verify the legitimacy of such offers with official sources.

3. Phishing Scams

These scams involve emails or messages that appear to be from official sources, such as government agencies or banks. The goal is to steal banking or credit card information¹.

Tip: Do not click on suspicious links or provide personal information through email or text. Verify the sender's identity through official channels.

4. Impersonation Scams

Scammers pose as veterans, VA officials, or representatives of military charities to gain trust and access to personal information. They may ask for Social Security numbers or other sensitive data¹.

Tip: Verify the identity of anyone claiming to be from a government agency or charity by contacting the organization directly.

5. Investment Scams

Veterans are often targeted with promises of high returns on investments, which can lead to significant financial loss. Scammers may offer cash upfront in exchange for future disability or pension payments².

Tip: Be wary of investment opportunities that promise guaranteed returns or require upfront fees. Research the investment and consult with a financial advisor.

(ATTACH 10/20/21)



American Legion 22nd District of Texas

PO Box 1171, Katy, Texas 77492

NURSING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Dear Applicant:

The American Legion is dedicated to the enhancement of our youth's educational goals. Therefore, we are offering a \$1,000.00 Scholarship to the Nursing School of your choice if you are selected.

The below criteria must be met for the approval of your application:

- Student must be at least 18 years of age and a citizen of the United States.
- Student must be a local Texas resident.
- Student must be a child, grandchild or great-grandchild of a U. S. Armed Forces Veteran.
- Student must be considered a full time student by the applicable accredited college or training institution in the field of nursing,
- Student must be in good standing in their course of study.
- If student is not currently enrolled, he/she must provide a letter of acceptance from the University or College from which they are enrolled.
- Student must provide a copy of most recent transcript.
- If enrolled in school now, you must provide a current student I.D. number.
- Student must provide a one page typed essay on why they want to go to nursing school.
- Student receiving this scholarship will be required to attend an American Legion 22nd District monthly meeting in the scholarship award year.

(ATTACH 10 COPY)



Scholarship Application

1. Personal Information

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Date of Birth | |
| Marital Status | |
| Address | |
| Home Phone | |
| Cell Phone | |
| Office Phone | |
| Email Address | |
| Parent or Guardian Name | |
| Address | |
| Home Phone | |
| Cell Phone | |

2. Degree pursuing

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Undergraduate | |
| Post Graduate | |

3. Education Qualifications

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| High School | |
| College/University | |

Applicants
Signature

Date:

(ATTACHED)



The above application with all of the required documentation must be sent to the nursing committee at the above address or e-mailed to nursing@legiondist22.com **before May 11, 2025**. If we are not supplied all of the required information stated in the criteria of this application the student will be disqualified.

If you have any questions, comments and or concerns, please contact the Nursing Committee, Nursing Scholarship Fund at nursing@legiondist22.com

Respectfully,

Nursing Committee,
American Legion,
Department of Texas
22nd District

Committee Members:
Harry Woodstrom
Lynn Sparks
Sherry Thomas

(ATTACH 10 cont)

AMERICANISM

One of the focus areas of Americanism, is to," inculcate the ideal of Americanism in the citizen population, particularly the basic principle, that the interest of all the people are above those of any special interest, or so called class or section of the people". Recognized as the most powerful nation on the globe at this current time, it is probably perceived that the citizen are of one accord. But according to our latest voting numbers, there are almost a third of the nation that display a complete lack of interest in whatever way the nation goes. Military recruiting is down gain. This reflects a lack in the transference of the importance of Americanism. The obligations, rights, and privileges that each citizen is duly bound, goes undone, mainly due to ignorance (an absence of knowledge) of our national duties, through individual participation.

We have an organizational challenge that is worthy of the talents, energies and time vested in the Legion. We must rise to meet this rival and overcome its infestation with an overwhelming resilience that will not be halted!!!

Jimmy L. Mitchell,

Chairman

SCHOOL AWARDS

School Awards is an American Legion initiative to promote the recognition of our youth who excel in the areas of Leadership, Citizenship, Courage, Honor, Scholarship, Patriotism and Leadership in their school, community and family. The school's assigned seasonal schedules provide multiple opportunities for Legion involvement. However, the holidays provide even more opportunities to get involved. Let's get creative and innovative with our methods to approach the schools, students and our community partners. One option to consider, is to have students do a paper on their perception of the relevance of the Veteran's importance to our nation. A great in road to create and renew interest and curiosity in patriotism!!!

Jimmy L. Mitchell,

Chairman

(ATTCH 11)



Jonathan D. Rozier
American Legion Post 164
Katy, TX.
Community Service Report
November 17, 2024

Continuing or ongoing Community Outreach Activities:

We host a PTSD Support Group that meets every Tuesday. 104 hrs./yr

VA Stakeholders hosted once a month. 24 hrs./yr

We co-host a monthly "Breakfast with a veteran". 48hrs./yr.

We conduct a weekly Junior Shooting Spots Program 16 weekends a year.

192 hrs./yr.

Provide Support for Scout Troop 567. 24hrs./yr

Weekly collection of flags needing retirement from 4 flag boxes. 96 hrs./yr.

Honor Guard. Averaging 10 funeral events per month for 240 hrs./mo.

(2880 hrs./yr)

Honor Flight Support twice a year. 5hrs x 10 people = 100 hrs.

Community Flag Retirement Ceremony. 8 people x 3 hrs. = 24 hrs.

(ATTCH 12)

4th of July Flag Ceremony x 2. 10 people x 6 hrs. = 60 hrs.

Supported a Scout Eagle Project 2 people x 4 hrs. = 8 hrs.

Supported Scout Eagle Project x 2. 2 people x 4 hrs x 2 = 16 hrs.

Provided the Honor Guard for Grand Reopening ceremony of our post. 8 people x 5 hrs. = 40 hrs.

Provided opening day Flag raising at 4 schools in Katy Independent School District. 6 people x 2 hrs. x 4 = 48hrs.

School Flag Patrol training. KISD. 4 people x 3 hrs. = 12 hrs.

Information booth at Katy Safety Fest 6 people x 4 hrs = 24 hrs.

Supported Scout Troop 567 at their meeting. 2 people x 3 hrs. = 6 hrs.

Katy Rice Festival Legion Booth. 2 days. 8 people x 16 hrs. = 128 hrs.

Wreaths across American Fundraising booth 5 locations, 4 times. 10 people x 6 hrs. x 4 = 318 hrs.

Community Trunk or Treat table. 2 people x 6 hrs. = 12 hrs.

Honor Guard provided opening for Katy Triathlon Event. 6 people x 4 hrs. = 24 hrs.

Honor Guard conducted a new flag raising at Post 164. 4 people x 1 hrs. = 4 hrs.

(ATTCH 12004)

Poppy handout at 4 locations for Veterans Day. 12 people x 4 hrs. x 4
locations = 192hrs.

Participated in a Veterans Day event at No Label Brewery. 4 people x 4 hrs.
= 16 hrs.

Veterans Day Flag events at 5 locations. 10 people x 3 hrs. x 5 = 150 hrs.

Hosted a District/Division Service Officer training event 7 people x 7 hrs. =
49 hrs.

Hosted District 22 DEC. 4 people x 4hrs=16 hrs.

Respectfully submitted.

Sandy Krum

Commander

Jonathan D. Rozier

American Legion Post 164

Katy, TX,

(ATTCH 12/2017)



22 District Membership Update as of November 15, 2024

From Butch Sparks <ButchSparks@outlook.com>

Date Sat 11/16/2024 4:51 PM

To Don Quintero <don.quintero@att.net>; Hector Hernandez <h2houtxusa@gmail.com>; Sharon Bradley <sharon30_bd@yahoo.com>; Sandy Krum <morrow.krum@gmail.com>; Bill Kennison <wkennison@comcast.net>; David Saucillo <dsaucillo@yahoo.com>; Sherri Thomas <smj2867.sj@gmail.com>; James Coe <linjctx@hotmail.com>; Greg Gonzales <gonzalesgregorio@aol.com>; James King <jk63@yahoo.com>; Robert Rocha <rrocha10@gmail.com>; Joseph Garcia <legionpost472@hotmail.com>; Rene Sanchez <sansiore@att.net>; Jesse Martinez <jessem1966@gmail.com>; Robert Harvey <rlh.wings@yahoo.com>; Gordon Reed <gordon_reed632@outlook.com>; David Kang <davidkang199@yahoo.com>; Hector Giron <alpost654commander@gmail.com>; Tammy Dippel <tdippel71@yahoo.com>; Douglas Chin <dbchin99@gmail.com>

Cc Terry Contella <terrycontella@gmail.com>; Lynn Sparks <Lynnesparks@comcast.net>; Jim McGuire <jm99snake@yahoo.com>; Harry Woodstrom <hwoodstrom@woodborne.com>; Clifton Guillory <clifton87@yahoo.com>; Bruce Pettengill <bpettingill@comcast.net>; Jimmy Mitchell <bonnieandjim@aol.com>; Wendell Denney <officemanager@legion490.com>; Butch Sparks <ButchSparks@outlook.com>

📎 1 attachment (18 KB)

22nd District Membership Comparison November 15, 2024 vs November 15, 2023.xlsx;

Attached please find a comparison chart showing how the district is doing in membership this year versus last year.

I'm sad to report that the 22nd District overall is doing terrible this year so far in membership. Currently the 22nd District is in 21st place in the Department and last in the 2nd Division in membership. The District missed the target date by **123 members**.

Fortunately, the 22nd district does have several posts working membership and met the 65% Target date. **Congrats goes out to Posts 52, 164, 319, 391, 416, and 521 for meeting the 65% Target.**

The remaining posts in the district missed the target date as follows: **Post 77 by 1 member; Post 472 by 17 members; Post 490 by 129 members; Post 596 by 14 members; and Post 654 by 41 members.**

It doesn't take long to see why the District is in the basement when it comes to membership. The numbers speak volumes as to why. Compared to last year to date the District has **3 less new members**, and **205 less renewals** which equates that the District is **199 members behind** last year to date. Remember thanks to all of your hard work last year the goals have gone up and now the District is falling farther and farther behind in membership. To reach the 75% target in December the District now needs 404 members.

To be completely honest, It appears to me that a lot of posts within the 22nd District are on vacation when it comes to membership. This is a wakeup call. If the inactive posts in the district do not "Get Off the Porch" and get to work on membership, the 22nd District is going to be the laughing stock in

Department when it comes to membership and find back row seats at all conventions. I don't want that and I don't think any of you do as well. So, let's get to work to get our members on board.

Time for everyone to get on the Membership train and get the District numbers back up on top which I know you can do since you did it last year.

Here to help if needed.

Butch Sparks

2nd Division Membership Chair