



22nd District

Executive Committee Meeting

June 28, 2026

22nd District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes June 28, 2026

The 22nd District Executive Committee Meeting convened on June 28, 2026, at American Legion Post 164 in Katy, TX.

Prior to the start of the District Executive Committee Meeting Harry Woodstrom conducted training on "Who makes the Decision".

District Commander Jim McGuire 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 Judge Advocate (excused) were in attendance. The district still has vacancies for a Service Officer and Public Relations Officer and several committee chairs. All posts except 416 & 521 (absent) and Post 596 (excused) were represented. There was a quorum.

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.

Chaplain J.T. Thomas. I along with other District Officers attended the funeral of Past District and Division Commander Dan King's wife, Diana King, a past District, Division and State President, this morning. I also penned and presented a sympathy card to Dan on behalf of the district. I am requesting that all incoming Post Commanders contact me with their contact information, along with the same for their Post Chaplains.

Historian Hector Hernandez. He gave a verbal report on his recent activities to include a brief overview of the history of Post 428 in LaPorte and Post 319 in Deer Park.

Sergeant-At-Arms Rene Sanchez said there were twenty-eight members and our incoming Department Vice Commander, 2nd Division Ms. Cheryl Williams, in attendance. (ATTCH 2)

Commander Jim McGuire provided information on district highlights this year including our improvement in membership. We had a good year but have room for improvement going forward. (ATTCH's 3 & 4)

Post Reports:

Post 52- Post achieved 100% membership. This past Memorial Day, our post participated in Soldiers Rest service at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery and Placed and returned flags at the Houston National Cemetery. We've elected a new Post Commander, Benjamin Black, at our last post meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday August 1, at 1 p.m. We look forward to a new year with increased visibility in the community and peers.

Post 77- Post Commander Hector Hernandez gave a verbal report on Post activities.

Post 164- Post Commander Dennis Wells gave a verbal report on Post activities

Post 319- Post Commander J. T. Thomas gave a verbal report on Post activities

Post 391 – Post Commander Greg Gonzalez gave a verbal report on Post activities

Post 416 – Absent

Post 472 – Post Commander Juan DeLeon gave a verbal report on Post activities

Post 490 – Post Commander Rene Sanchez gave a verbal report on Post activities

Post 521 – Absent

Post 596 – Excused – No Report

Post 654 – Post Commander Hector Giron gave a verbal report of Post Activities

Committee Reports by Chairs that were at the meeting:

ALR – No report. Chair absent.

School Awards – Chairman excused. No report

Baseball – J.T. Thomas reported: Yesterday morning, members of the 22nd District, along with other members of the 2nd Division gathered in Pasadena for the 2nd Division American Legion Baseball Tournament. The tournament was between teams sponsored by Post 319, 22nd District and Post 586, 8th District. The tournament was the best of three, and Post 586 won the two games played on Saturday.

I have been communicating with several key personnel in the 22nd District involved in high school baseball and feel that if Posts are so inclined, we could have 4 teams sponsored within our district for next year's District tournament. If you have any interest in sponsoring a team, please contact me and I will walk you through the initial steps and I will be helping the incoming District Baseball Chair. I will caution you that the cost to us this year was roughly \$2,000.00, but through the support of other Posts and our Squadron, we were able to take care of everything.

Concerning yesterday's tournament, I would like to thank Commander McGuire for helping operate the scoreboard, incoming Commander Hernandez for taking pictures and all the other Legionnaires that attended and supported the program.

Boys State; Oratorical; Webmaster Harry Woodstrom – (ATTCH 5)

Community Service – Chair Sherry Thomas gave verbal report from community actions she had received from various posts.

Hubmaster Robert Crutchfield – No Report

Junior Shooting – Chair Jim McGuire reported at the current time Post 164 is the only Post running this program. They are currently between classes. They will be conducting some practices for some of their prior students after the fireworks season has been completed. The next class will be in the fall after Labor Day Holiday.

Legislative – Chair Rene Sanchez provided the following:

From WEEKLY GRASSROOTS NEWSLETTER

PTSD Awareness Day was just observed this Saturday, June 27th, as well as the fact that all of June has served as PTSD Awareness Month. If you or someone you know is struggling, resources are available. For immediate assistance, contact the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 and pressing 1.

HOUSING BILL COULD HELP MORE VETERANS USE VA HOME LOANS

The Senate passed the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act – a bill aimed at helping veterans better understand and use VA-backed home loan benefits. The bill would require clearer VA loan information during the mortgage process and make it easier to compare VA, FHA and conventional loan options. It would also exclude veterans' disability benefits from certain income calculations for homelessness assistance programs.

The bill now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

VA ANNOUNCES RECORD \$4.8B FACILITY UPGRADE PLAN

The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to invest \$4.8 billion in fiscal year 2026 to modernize and repair VA health care facilities nationwide, the largest single-year infrastructure investment in VA history. Many of those facilities were built during or shortly after World War II. The funding is also aimed at improving upgrades to VA's electronic health record modernization effort. Intended to make care more reliable and better connected across VA.

National Security – Chair J.T. Thomas gave the body an update on the Iranian War

POW/MIA – Chair Hernandez gave a verbal report.

S. A. L. Advisor – Chair Jimmy Mitchell sent in the following: He met with the District SAL Commander and the Officers at the 22nd District Convention. He was briefed on the future plans to grow the Squadrons. He observed the election of the District Officers for the incoming year. The Commander provided him with the current membership status and a printed copy of Squadron's percentage of goal.

Scouting – Chairman J.T. Thomas informed the body that Posts 164 and 319 are sponsoring Scouting programs and are involved with Eagle Scout projects.

School Awards – No Report. Chair Jimmy Mitchell excused.

Unfinished Business –

Adjutant Sparks briefed the body on the questions concerning Post 521. He was asked, along with our 22nd District Judge Advocate Jimmy Mitchell, by the 22nd District Commander Jim McGuire to respond to questions the district received from Post 521 members concerning the election process of Post officers at Post 521. Adjutant Sparks met with the current Post 521 Commander Gordon Reed and asked him to explain the post's election process. Reed explained the process and provided Sparks with copies of the ballots used for the election and the meeting sign-in roster. According to Adjutant Sparks there appeared to be irregularities on the ballots, therefore Adjutant Sparks sent the ballots and sign-in roster to the Department Judge Advocate Doug Wallace asking for his advice and recommendations. Judge Advocate Wallace agreed that there appeared to be some irregularities in the ballots but basically stated that the Department cannot direct a new election, but that decision is up to the post. Based on the Judge's input, Sparks discussed the situation with the District Commander Jim McGuire and Post 521's leadership. Attached is a copy of actions taken following receipt of the Department Judge's recommendations, including Mitchell and Sparks visit to the Post 521 meeting on June 25, 2026. (ATTCH 6)

During the last 22nd District Convention several officer and committee chair positions were not filled. If individuals are interested in stepping up to an open position, please contact the District Commander Hector Hernandez or the District Adjutant Butch Sparks.

New Business

There was discussion on future locations for District Executive Committee Meetings and the following was submitted:

August 9, 2026 – Post 654 Commander Hector Giron stated his post would be available.

October 11, 2026 – Post 52 Commander Black said his post would volunteer to host the DEC if a meeting place could be located.

December 13, 2026 – Post 654 Commander Giron stated his post would be available.

February 7, 2027 – Post 472 Commander DeLeon said his post would be available.

April 11, 2027 -Spring Convention - Commander Hernandez to work location.

June 13, 2027– Post 164 Commander Wells said his post would be available.

Sandy Krum, 22nd District Vice Commander, moved to accept these locations and dates, seconded by J.T. Thomas. Motion carried.

Commander Elect Hernandez stated that visits to Posts will continue.

Good of The Legion:

Incoming Department Vice Commander Williams addressed the body and asked for everyone's support this coming year.

Incoming District officers will be sworn in at the Department Convention if they are in attendance. Others will be sworn in at the August District Executive Committee meeting.

There was discussion of holding another Legion College in the fall this year. One location was Post 472. Another location that was presented was a Houston Community College campus. Further discussion will be held in the following months.

Closing Ceremonies were held in due form. The meeting was adjourned at 16:29 hours.

Butch Sparks

22nd District Adjutant

Enclosures

22nd District Executive Committee Sign in 6-28-2026

	Name	Post	Title
1	Arne Smith	490	Commander
2	Harry Woodliff	164	
3	Edward V. Ruhnke, Jr.	52	Finance Officer
4	DAVID KADG	596	Commander
5	BILL KENNISON	164	
6	SANDY KREIN	164	
7	BRUCE PETERSON	345	
8	ERNIE CORMIER	164	PAST COMMANDER
9	Jennifer Lowry	164	Adjutant
10	Gregorio Gonzalez	391	Commander
11	Sherry Thomas	319	Adjutant
12	Joseph Thomas	319	Cdr
13	Jim McGurne	164	Dist Cdr
14	ROBERT CRITCHFIELD	164	1ST VICE COMMANDER
15	ROBERT PEREZ	654	ADJUTANT
16	LYNN SPARKS	319	F.O.
17	HECTOR HERNANDEZ	77	COMMANDER
18	Beth Sparks	164	Dist Adj
19	HECTOR GIRON	654	Commander
20	Eddie Carnion	472	V. Commander
21	Guillermo G.	472	Adjutant

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22nd District Executive Committee Sign in 6-28-2026

22	Onesimo Trevino	472	Judge Advocate
23	Juan P. De Leon	472	Cmdr.
24	DENNIS WELLS	164	Commander
25	Don Quintero	52	Asst Adjutant
26	Ben Black	52	Ben Black
27	PRENESS THOMAS WHITE	654	
28	FELIX M. WHITE	654	
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THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

22ND DISTRICT

DISTRICT COMMANDERS REPORT

The 22nd District had a good year this past year. We finished in the Top 10 in Membership, but we could have done better with all of the Posts achieving 100%.

The District will have several Posts that need to update their Constitution and By Laws as they will be 5 years old. One Post still does not have a Constitution and By Laws and has not had one for at least the last 4 years.

The District has several Posts who are not running any American Legion Programs, or have meetings, or having annual elections. Maybe it is time for these Post to get their act together or the District to take action.

Let us discuss administrative reporting. These are reports that are due every year and we have some Posts that just do not get them done at all or not on time.

POST DATA FORM- is mailed to the Post in Feb or March. This is to verify the Post Physical address, Dues address, Dues rate and effective date. This report is supposed to be sent to The Department of Texas. Post 416, 596, and 654 have not completed this report.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT – is required by all Posts to be submitted by May 31st of each year. This report shows man hours spent volunteering, money spent on programs, money donated by the Post and programs worked for the year. This report can be completed on MyLegion and submitted there also. If completed on MyLegion the Post MUST make a copy and submit it to the Department of Texas Adjutant before 1 June of each year. To get credit for submitting the report the Post only must complete to top of the form and sign and submit. Post 472 and 490 reports submitted late 6.10 and 6.8. The

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Department of Texas uses this report for the Community Service and Education awards.

POST CERTIFICATION OF OFFICERS- should be completed within 10 days of the Post elections or no later than 1 July. The form must be completely filled out for all officers of the Post to include a copy of their DD Form 214.

NOTIFICATION OF POST/SQUADRON COMMANDER AND ADJUTANTS – this report should also be completed and sent to the Department of Texas Adjutant. This is used to update what was the Blue Book of all of the Post in the State of Texas, it is now done online at txlegion.org.

All of these reports can be found on txlegion.org under forms& publications/post forms. They can be downloaded and saved to your computer for use when needed.

Post which have not submitted to Department a Post certification form by 1 July, a Consolidated post Report by June 1 and do not have an updated Post Constitution & By Laws by June 1, 2026 will not be eligible for any Post awards. A Post Constitution & By Laws is considered updated if dated after October 1, 2020. Post 52, 391, 416, 521 will need to update yours this coming year.

These are the things we all need to do better at especially after you have been told several times when and how to complete these reports by myself.

Jim McGuire

22nd District Commander

22ND DISTRICT DEC

28 JUNE 2026

MEMBERSHIP YEAR END REPORT

The 22nd District has had a good year in Membership this year. Of the 11 Posts in the District 7 Posts finished at or above 100% and 4 Posts finished at 85% or better. 4 Posts also did not make the 90% retention. Every Post did recruit at least 1 new member, but 2 Posts did not transfer any members. The District has 239 new members and 39 transfers for the year. We finished at 101.26% of goal and 90.25% retention for the District. So how did we get here:

Post 52	62	64	103.23%	77% +9	16 new	1 transfer
Post 77	224	219	97.77%	97%	4 new	2 transfer
Post 164	381	401	105.25%	91%	45 new	9 transfer
Post 319	61	52	85.25%	83% +5	1 new	1 transfer
Post 391	20	18	90%	68% + 5	4 new	1 transfer
Post 416	112	114	101.79	98%	2 new	0 transfer
Post 472	183	197	107.65%	93%	21 new	6 transfer
Post 490	1037	1058	102.03%	90%	108 new	10 transfer
Post 521	223	228	102.24%	93%	13 new	7 transfer
Post 596	25	25	100.00%	100%	1 new	0 transfer
Post 654	206	190	92.23%	79% + 22	25 new	2 transfer

Market Penetration for the District is at 2.96%, the Department of Texas wants us to be at 5%. There are about 84,000 Veterans in Harris County so we need to encourage 1766 more to join our great organization.

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The goal for the District was 2534 and we ended up with 2565 that is + 31. Those of you who worked on the membership very hard this year thank you very much for your efforts. Those that did not make goal you will need to step up your efforts next year to ensure you make goal. For those who made goal membership is a lot of work. It is a task that needs attention almost daily. So, knowing that the new membership year is about to begin, lets hit the ground running and get a great start to the new year. We will have new District Leadership so let's support them in their efforts to be successful.

22nd District Reports

Boys State

The 22nd District sent 115 boys to Boys State this year. We had three fully loaded buses that were provided by the Harris County Commissioners. The American Legion is in their debt. There were some issues that appeared during the program. The application system was "New and Improved". The bus drop-off and Pick-up locations were not clearly communicated to everyone. The program, however, was a success and meaningful to 115 boys.

Oratorical

The Oratorical program is probably dormant in most posts at this time of year. Now, however, is the time to gather resources, train staff and prepare your school presentations to introduce the Oratorical program to schools when summer is over and school has started.

Web Master

Staff changes for the 22nd District will occur in July. That means changes to the Web Site, Changes to contact information but hopefully, no change in where you go to get your information. The 22nd District web site is your web site. You should use it.

Nursing

The 22nd District Nursing Scholarship Program closed on May 30th. The program had five applications the year. The applications were reviewed by the Nursing Committee consisting of Lynn Sparks, Sherry Thomas and Harry Woodstrom. Anneliese Manning was chosen as the candidate to be presented to the 22nd District DEC for Scholarship Approval.

Training

Training has been scheduled for every DEC in the coming year. The 22nd District training committee is concerned that the training program at the individual post level has not been as robust as it could be. Therefore, the training officer will be available to work with your post to start a training program or enhance a training program or work with your training officer to strengthen your program or provide training for your trainer or provide training at your post. Warning, not asking for help doesn't get rid of the new District Training Officer.

Respectfully Submitted

Harry Woodstrom



Follow up to Post 521 Annual Election Investigation

Upon receipt of the Department Judge Advocates review of the subject investigation, I contacted the District Commander Jim McGuire and the Post 521 Post Commander Gordon Reed with Judge Wallace's input and that only the Post can request voiding an election and having a new election of officers. I referred Commander Reed to Post 521's C&BL's that include requirements for calling a special meeting of the executive committee and for calling a special general membership meeting.

Commander Reed held a special Post Executive Committee meeting on June 18 to discuss Post options on the election. The Executive Committee voted to void the June 1 election and conduct a new election following the procedures in their C&BLs with the consent of the General Membership at a called Special Meeting on June 25, 2026

Post 521's C&BL's require that actions of the Executive Committee be approved by the General Membership. According to the C&BL's special membership meeting can be called from 7 to 14 days with notification of the post membership. According to Post 521's Commander Reed this was done and a special meeting was scheduled for June 25 to discuss the election.

Commander Reed asked me to attend the June 25 special general membership meeting and provide the membership information discovered during our investigation and the recommendations by our Department Judge Advocate Wallace.

22nd District Judge Advocate Jimmy Mitchell and I attended the June 25 special general membership meeting and after the opening ceremonies, I was asked to brief the attendees on the investigation.

I informed the membership that the Department cannot require a new post-election of officers and that it was up to the post membership. The purpose of my input was to highlight the findings based on my discussion with the Post commander; copies of the Election night sign in roster and copy of submitted ballots provided to me by the Post Commander. My review of election records indicated 25 signatures on the Election Night sign-in Roster (including one ALA member and our District Commander Jim McGuire)

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thereby having only 23 eligible members signed in. There were 24 ballots submitted. The ballots, according to my review and the Department Judge Advocates review had inconsistencies in many instances which made it difficult to determine accuracy of the ballots. I did suggest that if another election is approved that the election be conducted by the 22nd District. There was a resounding NO to this suggestion.

Following my presentation, Commander Reed entertained a motion to redo the election of Post Officers. A motion was made and seconded to redo the election. During discussion one of the members asked if they could see the evidence. Commander Reed said he had ballots and sign-in roster that could be reviewed by the members. Several members reviewed the available ballots and sign-in roster and the vote to redo the election was held by raising their hands. To assist with the voting I was asked to count the votes. The vote to redo the election failed and the election results of the June 1 election stood.

I informed Mr. Lerma, candidate for Commander, that I did not see his name on the sign-in roster the night of the election. I then asked him if he signed in on the sign-in roster. He stated that there was a situation at the sign-in table.

This event really emphasizes the need for training by all posts on how to run an election. Although the Department or District cannot direct posts on elections, proper training could possibly improve elections going forward and alleviate uncertainties.



Butch Sparks

22nd District Adjutant