

## **MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AUSTIN, TX--JANUARY 18-19, 2025**

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025**

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Commander Alva. Colors being in place, a right-hand salute was given. Following the pledge to our flag, the prayer and the reading of the preamble, the meeting was called into session at 9:36. Roll call was then asked for. All officers were present except for Sgt. At Arms Fraley. All Chairmen were present except for Internet Winters. Districts present were 1C, 2C, 3C, 4C, 5C, 6, 7C, 9C, 10C, 11C, 12C, 13C, 14C, 15C, 16C, 19C, 20C, 21C and 22. Squadrons present were 12, 36C, 43C, 77, 88C, 89, 92, 120C, 127, 143C, 172C, 179, 198C, 208C, 245, 283, 291, 297, 319, 321C, 430C, 447, 453C, 472, 522, 573C, 593, 597C, 618C, 654, 655C and 817. A quorum was established. Following roll call, National American Legion National Vice Commander Joe, Department of South Carolina, came forward to bring greetings to the body. His words of encouragement were heard and appreciated by all. Detachment Commander Alva then appointed Juan Torres Jr. as Detachment Asst. Sgt at Arms for this meeting. A motion was made by Gary Randall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rolf Austin, to cover his per diem for this meeting. Motion passed. American Legion Department Commander Tom Marty came forward to bring greetings to the body. His tough words and his let's get going was extremely appreciated. Jeff Perkins came forward to give thanks to the body for their thoughts and attending his Daughter's funeral. Commander Alva then asked NEC Kingston to come forward for the purpose of introduction. Jon then introduced Candidate for SAL National Commander 2025-2026, Bill Clancy, from the Detachment of New York, to come forward. He then spoke to the body and extended greetings to all. He spoke to the body for where we are now and what we need to do for the future. His comments were well received, and the body appreciated his comments. Commander Alva then asked for the reading of the minutes. Motion was made by Bill Kuehner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rolf Austin, to waive the reading of the minutes. Motion passed. Past National American Legion Commander Paul Dillard came forward for purpose of presentation of campaign funds for Thom Skelley.

NEC---Commander Alva then asked NEC Kingston to come forward to give his report. Alt NEC Kuehner came with him. He reported on the Fall NEC. Spoke on various resolutions that were presented at the NEC meeting. A full report is attached to these minutes. Bill Kuehner then spoke to the body about an upcoming program called VCF, Veterans Children Foundation. Motion by JB Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Randall to accept the report. Motion passed.

Commander Alva then recessed the body for Committee meetings and lunch. Meeting recessed at 11:18 AM.

Meeting was called back to order at 1:05

Rich Huntley came forward to bring greetings and words of wisdom. The body thanked him for his words.

Internal Affairs Director Mike Simon came forward to bring greetings and as always his words are super encouraging, We always love to have him at our meeting.

**DEPARTMENT LIAISON---**Henry Creech came forward to give his report. He talked to the body about loose ends that need to be tightened up with proper forms and proper paperwork. Squadrons need to follow up with finances and minutes to their Post Adjutant and/or to

Detachment Adjutant. Motion by Jerry Renard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by JT Thomas to accept the report. Motion passed.

**INTERNET**—Chairman Winters not present due to family issues, His report was read by Adjutant Winkelmann and is attached to these minutes. Motion made by John Jellison, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Webb to accept the report. Motion passed.

**LEGISLATIVE**—Chairman Johnson came forward to give the report. He reported on various items from the Texas Legislation sessions, especially VA Modification Program and other National Programs and upcoming Legislative items. He presented some of those to the floor. A complete report is attached to these minutes. After his report was read, John Jellison made a motion to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Milton Chatham. Motion passed.

**VE & E**—Chairman Parnell came forward to give the report. Following his remarks, JB Thomas made a motion to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rolf Austin. A complete copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Motion passed.

**AMERICANISM**—Chairman Kevin Baker came forward to give the report. He reported on various items brought forward to them including Squadron CSR's. He also spoke on the various events that fall under Americanism and what we need to do as a group to support all of the Americanism program. Gary Randall made a motion to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Jellison. Motion passed.

**VA & R**—Chairman Maxwell came forward to give the report. He reported on the various Squadrons who are participating in VA & R related events. He also spoke on the VCF program. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Gary Randall made a motion to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Milton Chatham. Under discussion, it was discussed concerning MIAT.org and how we need to get involved. Motion passed.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH/CWF**— Chairman Carriger and Chairman Webb came forward to do the report. The committees are working together to jointly handle all projects under their Committees. There will be a raffle starting at the conclusion of this meeting and will be held tomorrow. They also said there are items for sale from the CWF group. Pool tournament will be held immediately after the meeting. A complete report from both Committees is attached to these minutes. Motion made by Tim Webb to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Parnell. Motion passed.

**MARKETING**—Chairman Hartline came forward to give his report. He noted some accomplishments made by the Marketing Committee. He also stated they are now taking credit cards to pay for various items. Ray made a motion to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Webb. Motion passed.

Ray also spoke to the body concerning the National Commander Campaign Fund

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**—Wolf Laughing came forward to give the report. Discussions include TEXALPA, CSR and other PR programs. JB Thomas made a motion to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Gonzalez, motion passed.

**CONVENTION CITY**—Chairman Owens came forward to give his report. Chairman Owens spoke to the body about the upcoming Department Convention. Reservations should be able to start in March. It was reported that the Department Convention will be held at the same location

through 2030. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Motion made by John Jellison, 2<sup>nd</sup> by JB Thomas. Motion passed.

**BOYS STATE**—Chairman Jennings came forward to give the report. He reported all updates of Boys State from the Department. Cost this year is \$400.00 per statesman. There are bundle packages available. These updates are attached. Motion by Jerry Renard to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Arista. Motion passed.

**AWARDS**—Rolf Austin came forward to give the report. He stated that there are forms available for use on the website. He also spoke about all the awards that are available and what comes with each award. All forms must be submitted prior to May 31<sup>st</sup>. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Tim Webb made a motion to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Renard. Motion passed.

**PUFL**— Chairman Winkelmann gave the report. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Kevin made a motion to accept the report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon Kingston. Motion passed.

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS/MEMBERSHIP**— Chairman Fowler came forward to give the report. He reported to the body concerning the status of membership in the Detachment and necessary changes made to the membership report. We are doing very well hitting our goals and just made the 65% goal. The chairman also handed out 100% checks at this time. There were various discussions concerning certification of officers and membership submitted on-line. He also asked everyone to keep him informed about any issues you are having with membership, either at National or at the Department level. Roy Fowler then made a motion to accept the report as read, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Parnell. Motion passed.

**HISTORIAN REPORT**—Historian Garcia came forward to give the report. He spoke to the body about the Scrap Book and the rules going with it. He will continue to keep putting together the scrap book monthly. Motion by JB Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Randall, to accept the report. Motion passed.

Commander Alva then recessed the meeting until 9:01 AM Sunday morning.

**FINANCE**—Chairman Dorsett came forward to give his report. He talked about various items concerning the Finance Committee. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Motion was made by Milton Chatham to accept the report as read, 2<sup>nd</sup> by JT Thomas. Motion passed. It was also stated that the report be put aside for audit.

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025**

Commander Alva called the meeting back into session at 9:05 AM. Following hand salute to the colors, prayer, pledge and preamble, Commander Alva called the meeting to order. The roll call was then asked for. All officers were present except for Sgt. At Arms Fraley. Chairman not attending were Internet (E) Districts present were 1C, 2C, 3C, 4C, 5C, 6, 7C, 9C, 10C, 11C, 12C (EAT)

Americanism (E)

13C, 14C, 15C, 16C, 19C, 20, 21C and 22. Squadrons present were 12, 36C, 43C, 77, 88C, 89, 93, 120C, 133C, 143C, 172C, 179, 198, 208C, 245, 283, 291, 297, 319, 321C, 430C, 447, 453C, 472, 522, 573C, 593, 618C, 654, 655C and 817. A quorum was established.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**—Parliamentarian came forward to announce changes to the By-Laws that need to be made either by order of the National Organization or of their own accord. He then proceeded into the reading of resolutions of Endorsements for Detachment Offices.

**NEW BUSINESS**—None

**GOOD OF THE SAL**—Various Squadrons reported on upcoming events. Wolf Laughing spoke to the body concerning respect to body and our guest. John Jellison made a motion concerning using the PUFL card as a form of identification at DEC's and Convention only, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Parnell. Motion passed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Commander Thomas spoke to the body about helping the VA Hospital. Tom Arista approached the body concerning American Legion Family Day and presented information concerning what to do on the last Saturday in April. Brad Pack spoke to the body concerning the Military YMCA facilities in El Paso. He also spoke about the facility at Fort Cavazos and what we are helping that facility with. CWF Chairman spoke to the body concerning donations raised for CWF this weekend. Lewis Elam spoke to the body on membership on the National level, especially retention.

Being no further business, Commander Alva asked Chaplain Parnell for the benediction. Following the benediction, Commander Alva called for the hand salute to the colors and retirement of the colors. The meeting was then adjourned at *10:21 AM*