

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AUSTIN, TX

Call to Order

By order of the Commander and pursuant to the constitution and by-laws, Article IV, Section 1, of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Texas, I, Kevin Winkelmann, Detachment Adjutant, do hereby call all members of the Detachment Executive Committee to convene on Saturday January 31, 2026 at 9:30AM and Sunday February 1, 2026 at 9:00AM in a room to be named later at the Renaissance Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas.

Meeting and Hotel News

Where: The Renaissance Austin Hotel, 9721 Arboretum Blvd., Austin, TX 78759
512-535-4441. Room rates are approx. \$121.00 per night plus tax.

All room reservations must be made by January 6, 2026

When: Saturday January 31, 2026 @ 9:30AM

Sunday, February 1, 2026 @ 9:00AM

Agenda

You will find the agenda for the meetings enclosed.

Commander's Comments

Please see the enclosed letter from Detachment Commander Dorsett for his notes and words of encouragement

Adjutants Notes

Please make sure all Officers, Chairman and District and Squadron Commanders address changes are reported to me as soon as they occur. This includes e-mail addresses. Please e-mail all correspondence if possible. All Squadrons and Districts need to make sure their certification of officers is turned in as soon as possible. This will help with our mailings. The minutes from the 2025 Fall DEC are enclosed. Please read them and bring all the corrections to this meeting in January. Our special guest for this meeting, as of this call letter, will be National Vice Commander Southeast, Bryan Hines, 2025-2026, from the Detachment of Tennessee. Our next Detachment Convention will be held in Austin, TX. the weekend of July 10-12, 2026. Our special guest for the Detachment Convention will be National Commander Bill Clancy, from the Detachment of New York. Please make plans to be at the Detachment Convention

Finance

Remember, all reimbursements must have an attached voucher signed by the Commander and the Finance Officer. I plan to send out my emails to confirm your plans to attend the Mid-Winter DEC over the Christmas weekend. If you wish to receive your call-in at the meeting, you must reply within one week after the email is sent out. If you do not receive the email from me, please send me a note of

your plans to georgealva2000@yahoo.com or call me at 210-269-7951. Remember to receive a call-in you must be a Detachment Officer, Detachment Committee Chairman, District Commander or a Past Detachment Commander. You must answer roll call on Saturday and Sunday and if you are assigned a committee, you must attend the committee meeting. If you have any other questions, my contact information is listed below:

Home – 210-269-7951

E-Mail – georgealva2000@yahoo.com

George Alva, Detachment Finance Officer

Internet

If you have information on events, benefits, etc. happening at your home post, please e-mail the information or a flyer to me so I can post it on the web site and get the word out across Texas. The only way the Detachment will know what is happening in this great state is if you supply the information. I look forward to hearing from each of you and receiving many fliers.

Gary Winters-Webmaster/Public Relations Committee

Department Headquarters Policy

There have been some changes at Department Headquarters that we all need to observe. From this day forward or until further notice, these are the new policies that have been mandated. If anyone or any Squadron has complaints, concerns, issues or needs information concerning membership or any other matter, all comments and/or questions must go through the Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Winkelmann, or if he is not available next through Detachment Commander Ken Dorsett or Department Advisor, Jeff Perkins. All items must be in letter form or by e-mail, if possible. Adjutant Winkelmann can be reached at 817-994-7394 cell or e-mail at knwink@msn.com. Commander Dorsett can be reached at 432-664-2361 or e-mail at kh.dorsett@yahoo.com. Please follow these new rules so we do not create more issues at Department Headquarters. Failure to follow these rules will only delay your answers and create more controversy. Also, please remember, the SAL Detachment of Texas, now has an office to use when you are in Austin. Please see Dept. Adjutant Bill West for entry to this office. There is a computer set up in the office for your use also.

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE TRAINING CLASS/WORKSHOP

MEET IN A ROOM TO BE DETERMINED, TIMES SAT. JAN. 31 8:00-9:15

OPENING SESSION, SATURDAY JANUARY 31, 2026-----9:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER-----COMMANDER DORSETT

POST COLORS-----SGT-AT-ARMS GATTIS

INVOCATION-----CHAPLIN BRAD HENDERSON

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-----DIVISION 3 COMMANDER NICK AREVALO

PREAMBLE-----DIVISION 2 COMMANDER JOSEPH THOMAS

ROLL CALL-----ADJUTANT WINKELMANN

READING OF MINUTES-----ADJUTANT WINKELMANN

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS-----NEC KUEHNER

**GREETINGS FROM SPECIAL GUEST, NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER SOUTHEAST,
BRYAN HINES, FROM THE DETACHMENT OF TENNESSEE, AND SPEAKERS**

GREETINGS FROM DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AND DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

COMMITTEE MEETINGS (Immediately following recess of meeting) -----LOCATION TBD

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEC-----BILL KUEHNER

PARLIMATARIAN/C & BL-----ROY FOWLER

LEGISLATIVE-----KEVIN JOHNSON

VE & E-----BRET KLEESPIES

AMERICANISM-----KEVIN BAKER

VA & R-----JEAN MAXWELL

CHILDREN & YOUTH-----MICHAEL CARRIGER

PUBLIC RELATIONS-----WOLF LAUGHING

MARKETING-----RAY HARTLINE

AWARDS-----DUSTIN FOWLER

PUFL-----KEVIN WINKELMANN

MEMBERSHIP-----ED PARNELL

FINANCE-----LEWIS ELAM

ADJOURN UNTIL 9:00 AM SUNDAY MORNING

RECONVENE, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2026-----9:00 AM

POST COLORS-----SGT-AT-ARMS GATTIS

CALL BACK TO ORDER-----COMMANDER DORSETT

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-----DIVISION 4 COMMANDER ANDY BROWNING

PREAMBLE-----DIVISION 1 COMMANDER WOLF LAUGHING

ROLL CALL-----ADJUTANT WINKELMANN

COMPLETION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, IF NECESSARY

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION-----CHAPLAIN BRAD HENDERSON

RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS-----SGT-AT-ARMS GATTIS

ADJOURNMENT-----COMMANDER DORSETT

FALL DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE MEETING AUSTIN, TX---SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2025

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by Commander Dorsett. 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 9:10. Roll call was then asked for. All officers were present except Division 1 Commander Laughing (E), Division 3 Commander Arevalo (E) and Historian Garcia. All Chairmen were present except for Americanism Baker (E) and PR Laughing (E). Districts present were 1C, 2, 3C, 4C, 5C, 6C, 7C, 9, 10C, 11C, 12C, 13C, 14C, 16C, 17C, 18C, 20, 21 and 22. Squadrons present were 12, 50, 54, 75, 77C, 79, 92, 120C, 122C, 133, 163C, 179, 198C, 208C, 231, 245, 283, 291, 297C, 319, 321C, 430, 447, 453, 511, 516C, 522C, 554, 573C, 593, 597C, 618C, 654 and 817. A quorum was established. Following roll call, Commander Dorsett asked for the reading of the minutes. Motion was made by Gary Winters, 2nd by JT Thomas to waive the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

Commander Dorsett recessed the meeting for Committee meetings. Meeting recessed at 9:20 AM

Meeting was called back into session at 9:45 AM by Commander Dorsett

NEC---Commander Dorsett then asked NEC Kuehner to come forward to give his report. He reported on the Past National Convention held in Tampa, FL this past August. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Bill Kuehner made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Tim Webb. Motion passed.

DEPARTMENT LIAISON---Jeff Perkins came forward to give the report. He stated that The American Legion is very impressed with the SAL and the Detachment. He told the body that the budget had been approved. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Ed Parnell made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Tim Webb. Motion passed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/INTERNET---Chairman Winters came forward to give the report. Wolf Laughing was not present to do the report. He reported on items needed for the web site and what the Squadrons are not doing. He also asked that all Officers and Chairmen get their pictures on the website. Gary made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Jerry Renard, Motion passed,

Bill West, Department Adjutant, came forward to bring information concerning LIT, insurance for The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. A flier is included for further explanation of this program. There is also information included for the Medicare program furnished by WellCare. One last item is EA Plus Travel Care if something happens to you when you are out of town (Travel Insurance). He also presented information concerning the upcoming National Convention in Louisville in 2026.

Department Commander Huntley came forward to bring greetings. He spoke to us concerning the SAL and how we are going above expectations as seen by The American Legion. He talked about the opportunity to advance our membership with the get out and reach attitude to all members, especially dual members.

LEGISLATIVE---Chairman Johnson came forward to give the report. He reported on various Veterans benefits and what is available for their use. He spoke specifically on these Veterans issues and programs that are available to help these Veterans. A complete report is attached to these minutes. After the report was read, Ed Parnell made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Tim Webb. Motion passed.

Internal Affairs Director Mike Simon came forward to bring greetings. As usual, great comments and fantastic jokes. He spoke about the Baseball Tournament and what we do for the program. He brought fantastic remarks concerning the SAL and what we do for The American Legion. He also presented a signed baseball from the Department winner, League City 554, to Detachment Commander Dorsett

VE & E---Chairman Kleepsies came forward to give the report. He spoke to the body concerning publishing employment opportunities for Veterans. There are numerous employers that advertise job openings for the same Veterans. He also spoke about the National award for the VE & E program. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Bret then made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Tim Webb. Motion passed.

AMERICANISM---Chairman Kevin Baker was not present to give the report. Vice Chairman Zach Jennings came forward to give the report. He gave a short briefing on various accomplishments from Squadrons. He also stated that the body needs to do more for the Americanism programs. He discussed the Flying Flags for Heroes program. He also spoke about the PTSD Ride to the National Convention in Tampa while carrying The American Flag. He also spoke to body concerning American Legion Baseball and how important it is to the young men. He also spoke to the body concerning various Americanism programs that are being carried out by Squadrons. He presented numerous Americanism programs and winners of these programs. Zach made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Ed Parnell. There were various points of discussion. Motion passed. A complete report is attached to these minutes.

VA & R---Chairman Max Maxwell came forward to give the report. Read a report on events that the VA & R Committee supports each year. He also told the body about various items that different Squadrons have completed for their local Veterans. He then presented an update concerning the floods that hit the Hill Country over the 4th of July weekend. PDC Seeger then approached with numerous achievements that VA & R accomplishes. PDC Fowler then approached with an update concerning the AS YMCA Food Program and school supplies program at Fort Hood. Finally, Commander Dorsett came forward to report on the same programs for Fort Bliss in El Paso. A complete report is attached to these minutes. JT Thomas made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Jerry Renard . Motion passed

CHILDREN & YOUTH/CWF--- Chairman Carriger and Vice Chairman Webb gave the reports. The Committee established chairs of each separate program under C & Y. He presented another program concerning the established \$1,000.00 line item in the budget for grants that will be presented later. He also spoke about CWF items that are available for purchase. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Motion made by Tim Webb to accept the report, 2nd by George Alva. Some discussion was brought to the floor concerning background checks for anyone handling food for the pizza party. There were some other items brought to the floor for discussion. Motion passed.

MARKETING---Chairman Hartline came forward to give his report. He stated that all new

shirts are not ready yet but should be soon and be available for purchase at the Mid-Winter Conference. All officers have received their shirts. He stated that there will be no cost increase starting next year. He also stated there are some Thom Skelley shirts available to purchase. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Gary Winters made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Tim Webb. Motion passed

Commander Dorsett recessed the meeting at 11:35 for lunch, to be reconvened at 1:00 PM
Commander Dorsett reconvened the meeting at 1:07 PM

AWARDS—Chairman Dustin Fowler came forward to give the report. He stated that there are forms available for use on the website. All award forms must be turned in by May 31st, no exception, for the 2026 awards. A complete report is attached to these minutes. He stated that the Awards Banquet is ready, and all awards are ready to be handed out. JT Thomas made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Ed Parnell . There was various discussion concerning the awards and how they are handled, disbursed and voted on. Motion passed.

PUFL— Chairman Winkelmann gave the report. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Ed Parnell made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Andy Browning. Motion passed.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS/MEMBERSHIP— Chairman Parnell came forward to give the report. He stated that since Department Headquarters is still down, the IA report is incomplete. He reported to the body concerning the status of membership in the Detachment. He also stated that new goals have been established and will be coming out at the same time. Ed informed the body that the 100% ribbons for Membership are here, and everyone needs to pick up their ribbon this evening at the Awards Banquet. Jerry Renard made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by JT Thomas, Motion passed.

FINANCE—Finance Chairman Elam gave the report. He talked about various items concerning the Finance Committee. A complete report is attached to these minutes. The budget for the 2025-2026 working year is also attached and has been approved by The American Legion. The report stated that some changes were made to the proposed budget but will not affect the overall expenditure. Motion was made by Lewis Elam to accept the report as read, 2nd by Tim Webb. Motion passed. It was also stated that the report be put aside for audit.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CAMPAIGN FUND—Ray Hartline came forward to bring an update concerning the campaign fund for Tom Skelley. He reported that there is approx. \$32,400.00 in the account.

Department Auxiliary President LeAnn Stewart came forward to bring greetings to the body. She spoke to the body with appreciation for everything the SAL does for The American Legion Family. She spoke about her program "Operation Homefront" that is a Veterans program.

Meeting was recessed by Commander Dorsett at 1:56 PM

UNFINISHED BUSINESS—None

NEW BUSINESS— A report was given concerning registration. A total of \$965.00 was received and 55 delegates were registered.

GOOD OF THE SAL—Various announcements were announced including Golf Tournament

from Squadron 593, need pictures for the website for all Detachment Officers and Chairmen, Squadron 618 doing a Kids Cook-Off, Squadron 522 doing a Chili Cook-Off, Alt. NEC Elam made an announcement concerning the OCW Ball being held on Feb. 21st in Richardson, TX at the Hilton Hotel. NEC Kuehner made an announcement concerning another Bike Ride St. Jude's Hospital. Squadron 655 is doing a Scavenger Hunt/Bike Ride. There was an announcement made concerning Historian Raul Garcia. The hat was passed for CWF and the total amount that was collected was \$404.00 which included fines and sales.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Commander Dorsett called the meeting back into session at 9:30 AM. Following hand salute to the colors, prayer, pledge and the preamble, Commander Dorsett called the meeting to order. The roll call was then asked for. All the officers were present except for 1st Division Commander Laughing (E) and 3rd Division Commander Arevalo (E). All chairmen were present except for Americanism Baker (E) and PR Laughing (E). Districts present were 1C, 2, 3C, 4C, 5C, 6C, 7C, 9, 10C, 11C, 12C, 13C, 14C, 16C, 17C, 18C, 20, 21C and 22C. Squadrons present were 36C, 43C, 50, 89C, 163C, 172, 179, 198C, 208C, 231, 245, 283, 297, 319, 321C, 447, 453C, 516, 522, 554, 573C, 593C, 597C, 618C, 654, 655 and 817. A quorum was established.

Unfinished business, New business and Good of the SAL were completed at this time even though the comments were put under Saturday's agenda.

Adjutant Winkelmann gave the body his notes and well wishes for this Fall meeting. There were various announcements presented to the floor.

Being no further business, Commander Dorsett asked Chaplain Henderson for the benediction. Following the benediction, Commander Dorsett called for the hand salute to the colors and retirement of the colors. The meeting was then adjourned at 10:30 AM



Congratulations to Team Texas on exceeding our membership goal, we've reached 100.54% of our target goal for this time! We need a total of 6,150 members for 2026, as of November 25, 2025, we have 3,207, we are at 52.15% of our end year goal. Let's keep the momentum going. Thank you all for your dedication and excellent work.

This year has been rewarding and busy as your Detachment Commander, and I've truly enjoyed it. If you ever need my support, don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanksgiving was wonderful this year, especially with our efforts at the Armed Services YMCA food pantries. I highly recommend getting involved with these events; it's incredibly fulfilling to bring joy to military families during the holidays. Be warned, though—you may find yourself wanting to participate every year!

Thank you all for supporting Boy's State. As of this morning, we've raised \$2,555.50, surpassing our \$2,500 goal. Let's keep up the momentum!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Mid-Winter Conference.