

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MID-WINTER CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 2020
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

Call to Order

By order of the Commander and pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws, Article IV, Section 1 of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Texas, I, Bill Kuehner, Detachment Adjutant, do hereby call all members of the Detachment Executive Committee to convene on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 9:30AM and, Sunday, February 9 at 9:00AM in the Amphitheater Room at the Omni Southpark Hotel in Austin, Texas.

Meeting and Hotel News

Where: Amphitheater Room, Omni Southpark Hotel, 4140 Governors Row, Austin, Texas, 512-448-2222. Room rates are \$117.00 per night plus tax. All room reservations must be made as soon as possible.

When: Saturday, February 8, 2020 @ 9:30AM
Sunday, February 9, 2020 @ 9:00AM

Agenda

You will find the agenda for the meetings within

Adjutant's Notes

Please make sure all Officers, Chairman, and District and Squadron Commanders address changes are reported to me as soon as they occur, including email addresses. Please email 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 our mailings.

The minutes from the 2019 Detachment Fall DEC are enclosed. Please review and bring all corrections to this meeting in February.

Upcoming events: Detachment Convention will be in Austin this year. July 10-12, 2020. It will be at the Renaissance Hotel, 9721 Arboretum Blvd. Austin 78759. 512-343-2626. The room rate is \$109.00. Cut off for reservations is June 16.

Commander's Comments

Comments attached.

Department Headquarters Policy

There have been some changes at Department Headquarters that we all need to observe. From this day forward until further notice, these are the new policies that have been mandated. If anyone or any Squadron has complaints, concerns, issues, or need information concerning membership or other matters, all comments and/or questions must go through the Detachment Adjutant, Bill Kuehner, or if he is unavailable contact the Detachment Commander Eddy Seegers. All items must be in letter or email form when possible. Adjutant Kuehner can be reached at 817-845-2990 or by email at bkuehner@sbcglobal.net. Commander Seegers can be reached at 832-573-5594 or by email at eddysal179@gmail.com. Please follow these rules so that all issues can be resolved expediently and properly.

MID-WINTER AGENDA

SATURDAY, February 8, 2020

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Opening Session | 9:30AM |
| Call to Order | Commander Seegers |
| Post Colors | Sgt-at-Arms Jennings |
| Invocation | Chaplain Ed Parnell |
| Moment of Silence | |
| Pledge of Allegiance | Division 1 Commander Jeff Saul |
| Preamble | Division 4 Commander Ken Dorsett |
| Roll Call | Adjutant Kuehner |
| Reading of Minutes | Adjutant Kuehner |
| Special Introductions (if any) | NEC David Blair |

NEC Report

NEC David Blair

Department Advisor Report

Mark Nil

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Internet

Gary Winters

Legislative

Anthony Lambert

Americanism

Roy Fowler

VA&R

Bart Kleespies

Children & Youth

Tracy Wood

CWF

Shannon Boyce

Public Relations

Dustin Moore

Marketing

Ray Hartline

Convention City

Tom Arista

Boys State

Travis Arreaga

Awards

Wesley (Buck) Jones

PUFL

Steve Slaughter

Internal Affairs / Membership

Juan Torres

Finance

Eddy Seegers

Recess 11:45 until at 9:00 AM Sunday

Joint Session AL/ALA/SAL 1:00 PM

SUNDAY, February 9, 2020

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Reconvene | 9:00AM |
| Call to Order | Commander Seegers |
| Post Colors | Sgt-At-Arms Jennings |
| Continue Committee Reports (if needed) | |
| Unfinished Business | |
| New Business | |
| Good of the Sons of the American Legion | |
| Benediction | Chaplain Ed Parnell |
| Retire Colors | Sgt-at-Arms Jennings |
| Adjournment | Commander Seegers |

Sons of the American Legion

Fall Conference

Sept. 28-29 2019

Austin, Texas

After the usual opening, post colors followed by hand salute, pledge and prayer, Commander Seegers opened the meeting at 10:35 AM.

Commander Seegers then called for Roll Call. All officers were present except NEC Blair and Advisor Nil. All Committee Chairman were present except PUFL Slaughter, Legislative Faulkner, and VE&E Skelley. All not present were excused. There were 18 Districts represented with 11 Commanders present. There were 26 Squadrons represented. After Roll call, Judge Advocate Austin, declared a quorum.

Commander Seegers then called for the reading of last meetings minutes. Jeff Saul made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes, 2nd by Tom Arista, motion carried.

Commander Seegers then called for the NEC report. Alt. NEC, Juan Torres gave the report. Juan then motioned to accept the report, 2nd by Tom Arista, motion carried. A copy of the report is attached.

Commander Seegers then moved into committee reports.

Internet: Gary Winters gave his report. Gary motioned to accept the report, 2nd by Roy Fowler, motion carried. A copy of the report is attached.

Public Relations: The report was given by Dustin Moore. Dustin motioned to accept the report, 2nd by Ray Hartline, Motion carried. A copy of the report is attached.

Convention City: Lewis Elam gave the report. Lewis motioned to accept the report, 2nd by Dustin Moore, motion carried. A copy of the report is attached.

PUFL: Kevin Winkelmann gave the report, He reported that he was taking over the PUFL program and will get it back on track, just give him a little time to get caught back up. Kevin motioned to accept the report, 2nd by Ed Parnell, motion carried.

Milton Chatham then made a motion to give Clifton Guillory a call in since he agreed to take on Legislative duties in the absence of Alton Faulkner, 2nd by Ed Parnell, motion carried.

Americanism: Brad Henderson gave his report. Brad motioned to accept the report, 2nd by Tom Arista, motion carried. Ken Peters Jr. then shared information on 9-11 activities held by Post 50 in Cleburne. A copy of the report is attached.

Boys State: Travis Arreaga gave the report. Travis motioned to accept the report, 2nd by Ed Parnell, motion carried. A copy of the report is attached.

Commander Seegers then called for lunch break at 12:00. Will reconvene at 1:30.

Commander Seegers called the meeting back to order at 1:30 PM. He then called to continue with committee reports.

VA&R: Bret Kleespies gave the report. Bret motioned to accept the report, 2nd by Tom Arista, motion carried. A copy of the report is attached.

Children & Youth: Brad Pack gave the report. He spoke about various activities involved in the program, and talked about the upcoming raffle to be held at Convention in Austin. Brad motioned to accept the report, 2nd by Tom Arista, motion carried. Tracy Wood then called Gary Winters to the podium. He then presented Gary with a plaque thanking him for an awesome fishing trip where everyone caught a lot of catfish and stripers.

Membership: Jon Kingston gave the report. He reminded everyone how vital membership is to the organization, and if anyone needed help on membership to contact him by email.

Awards: Roy Fowler gave the report. He stated that there are no submittals at this time. Roy motioned to accept the report, 2nd by Travis Arreaga, motion carried.

Legislative and Finance Committees were not prepared to give their reports at this time so Commander Seegers then moved on to unfinished business.

Unfinished Business:

Kevin Winkelmann asked if Jaxson Turner received his check from the donation from Detachment. Finance Officer, Henry Creech responded that the check had been mailed to Jaxson. Brad Pack then mentioned that 144 backpacks (4 boxes) had also been sent to Jaxson.

Department Finance Officer, David Paris, then addressed the body. He explained how our investments will be handled to take those numbers to Americanism Committee for review before going to Finance Committee for approval, and sees no problem on getting approval.

Kevin Winkelmann then asked about monies going to the National Candidates campaign fund. Finance Officer Creech stated that that is still a line item in our budget.

Kevin Winkelmann then asked if the Credential Committee received a call in check for their services at Convention. Finance Officer Creech said a check was mailed to 1 member all others on committee already received call in.

New Business:

Brad Pack talked about the monies Detachment donated for relief to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey. After discussion, Brad made a motion to donate up to \$5000.00 to help the victims of Tropical Storm Imelda. Monies will go to the Department relief fund and dispersed through their Relief Account, 2nd by Gary Winters, motion carried.

Finance Officer Creech then talked about making a Memorial Coin, to give to families of fallen Detachment members. He has sponsorship for 250 coins at a cost of 7-8 each. Henry then made a motion to spend \$500.00 to purchase @50 more coins, 2nd by Travis Arreaga, after discussion, motion carried.

Judge Advocate, Rolf Austin, then brought up the membership eligibility requirements as updated by the National Organization and will update the Detachment By-Laws to reflect that change and bring it to Convention for the body's approval.

Commander Seegers then recessed the meeting at 3:20, after retirement of colors, until 9:00 AM Sunday.

Sunday, September 29:

After the usual opening, posting of colors and hand salute, pledge of allegiance, and prayer, VCD1 Tom Arista called the meeting back to order at 9:00 AM.

VCD1 Arista then called for roll call. After the roll was called JA Rolf Austin then declared we had a quorum.

Membership Chmn. Kingston then asked if we could return to new business before moving on with remaining Committee reports, the request was granted. Jon then made a motion to have our colors and Detachment flag dry cleaned and reimburse the Sgt. at Arms for that service, 2nd by Gary Winters, motion carried.

VCD1 Arista then called for the continuation of committee reports.

Legislative: Clifton Guillory gave the report. Clifton motioned to accept the report, 2nd by Ken Dorsett, motion carried.

Finance: Tom Arista gave the report. Tom motioned to accept the report, 2nd by Ed Parnell, motion carried. Finance Officer Creech then discussed the per diem mileage rate. We currently receive .25 per mile however as a not for profit program .11 per mile will be taxed and members receiving call ins will responsible for those taxed reimbursements and be mailed an IRS form 1099 by Department. Henry then spoke about monies that will go into the National Campaign Funds from remaining budget at the end of the year.

After committee reports Commander Seegers moved on to Good of the SAL.

Good of The Sons of The American Legion:

Gary Randall mention a topic discussed in the PDC meeting about having a PDC/PDP reunion at our annual awards banquet or having a Post within Department host such an event. Gary will chair a committee looking into the feasibility of holding this event, with Killeen possibly holding first event.

Gary then stated that the 22nd District wants to hold a 5 Star and 10 Ideals class. He will put together the information and get it out to Detachment members.

Chaplain Parnell reminded everyone how to notify him for sending out sympathy or get well cards by going to our website saltexas.org, and click on chaplains corner.

Kevin Winkelmann mention he was updating his email list and anyone wishing to receive emails from him to send him your email address.

Kevin then mentioned that Juan Torres is on the National Membership Committee, and Tom Skelley was appointed to the National VE&E Committee. Kevin then asked if anyone was interested in attending the National NMI class and mention Commander Seegers will finish is class in May. VCD3 Rich Huntley expressed his interest.

Juan Torres, candidate for National Vice Commander Mid-West region had \$3000.00 in his campaign fund, and spoke on what is already on his agenda including National Commander Bolts Homecoming, and leading candidates Fox homecoming next year. He has give away items already in progress. Dustin Moore then touched on fundraisers in the works from Squadron 472.

Madame President, Brenda Towers then brought greetings from Department. She spoke on the 100 year team, and being family for the next 100 years . She also spoke about Cancer Research.

Commander Seegers then spoke about his visit to Madame Presidents Homecoming event held at Post 491 in Granbury.

Marketing Chairman, Ray Hartline then mention he was going to send Past National Commander, Doc Gibbs one of our new Detachment shirts. He also mentioned that if you have any issues with the new shirts to please come and see him.

There being no further business to come forward, Commander Seegers called for closing prayer, and retirement of our colors.

Commander Seegers adjourned the meeting at 10:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Kuehner

Detachment Adjutant

Public Relations Committee Report

Detachment Convention

Sons Of The American Legion, Detachment Of Texas.



Detachment Commander Eddy Seegers, discussed to the Public Relations Committee, to work hand in hand with the Internet Committee. One thing that the PR Committee started was creating a flyer or poster advertising or getting the awards banquet more awareness or attention. We had some miscommunication, but the overall experience and turnout was amazing.

With the allowance of the Awards Committee we created a flyer or poster that was posted on the Detachment Facebook page and it was also posted on the Detachment Website with the help of the Internet committee.

Our primary thing is to have information boards or time schedule boards to have times of trainings or meetings or even events. Also, one of our tasks is create informative videos, for instance, membership ratings, Detachment news, meet your commander for those who can't attend detachment meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dustin L. Moore, Chairman

Juan Torres, PDC

Richard V. Armstrong II, 10th Dist Cmdr

NEC REPORT

Special Olympics: \$202,000 36,891 hours

CMW: \$35,000 513 hours—3,611

Josh Dogs (being phased out): 2561 given out \$36,099

Operation Military Kids: \$11,642 2,187 hours

Other Children and Youth Projects: \$727,366 121,455 hours

Total: \$1,012,734 165,949

1,639 Squadron Consolidated reports were sent in out of 6,158

Of the 1,639 reports 494 did not have 2018-2019 membership eliminating them from any awards

VA&R

S.A.L. Resolution No. 6—National Convention, 2019: Support of the House of Representatives Resolution House Resolution 5674 and Senate Resolution Senate Resolution 2372, the Veterans Affairs MISSION Act, Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks. Its origin is from the Detachment of Illinois.

S.A.L. Resolution No. 7 —National Convention, 2019: Support of the House of Representatives Resolution House Resolution 1259 and Senate Resolution 1094, the Veterans Affairs Accountability Act.

10 resolutions were sent in, with one being different. It was rejected by the Constitutional committee.

The other 9 addressed the same subject, with one having a different resolve clause. They were consolidated into Resolution NC14-2019.

The number is S.A.L. Resolution 14 —National Convention, 2019. Title: Amendment to the National Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion, Article X, Section 2. Origin: Consolidated Resolution.

WHEREAS, since the inception of the organization in 1932, the principal mission of the Sons of the American Legion has been to

support the needs, programs and legacy of the parent organization, The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, over the past many years, as the Sons of the American Legion has grown in both membership and scope of service supported, the structure and administrative requirements have increased; and

WHEREAS, providing continued financial support is necessary to ensure the mission through the service and support which the organization provides is able to be sustained; and

WHEREAS, the national organization has not implemented a per capita dues increase in nearly 35 years; and

WHEREAS, to benefit the continued health and growth of the organization, it is dependent upon the ability to properly fund the programs and administration's costs, therefore, an increase is necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion, Article X, Section 2, now reads "The amount of such annual national dues shall be \$2 per member and shall be payable October 20th of each year and for the succeeding year"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Sons of the American Legion, in National Convention, assembled on August 23rd-25th, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana, amend the Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion, Article X, Section 2, to read "The amount of such annual dues shall be \$5 per member and shall be payable October 20th of each year for the succeeding year"; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the increase take effect on June 1, 2020, with the distribution of the 2021 National Membership cards and applied to all membership transmittals received after that date.

Clint Bolt Elected National Commander

Chris Cook was elected National Vice Commander Midwest.

Department of Texas – DEC Dates

Omni Austin Southpark Hotel
4140 Governors Row
Austin, TX. 78744
(512) 448-2222

Current September 25 – 29, 2019 - ROOM RATE IS \$115.00

Future Fall DEC Dates:

September 23 – 27, 2020 – \$117.00

September 22 – 26, 2021 – \$119.00

September 21 – 25, 2022 – \$121.00

September 20 – 24, 2023 – \$123.00

September 18 – 22, 2024 – \$125.00

September 17 – 21, 2025 – \$127.00

Future Mid-Winter DEC Dates:

February 7 – 9, 2020 – \$117.00

February 9 – 14, 2021 – \$119.00

January 18 – 23, 2022 – \$121.00

January 17 – 20, 2023 – \$123.00

January 16 – 21, 2024 – \$125.00

January 14 – 19, 2025 – \$127.00

If you have any comments or questions please contact

Lewis Elam – S.A.L. Convention City Committee via email lewiselam@sbcglobal.net



The Sons of the American Legion

2019 Fall DEC Legislative Committee Report

Meeting held at 12:30 PM in the lobby of the Omni Hotel

Committee members in attendance:

Clifton Guillory-Acting Chairman

S.21 and H.R. 367, the "Pay Our Coast Guard Act"

We as members of the Sons of the American Legion need to encourage congressional leadership to bring the Pay Our Coast Guard Act to the floor for a vote, and to promise to vote for this legislation, to ensure our members of the Coast Guard do not go without pay ever again.

Members of the US Coast Guard should never find their pay jeopardized because of any government shutdown.

Earlier this year, the longest government shutdown in our nation's history came to an end, stopping what had been more than a three-week gap since more than 41,000 active-duty members of the U.S. Coast Guard had been paid. The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program was able to provide more than

\$1 million in non-repayable grants to approximately 1,713 Coast Guard families with 3,170 children.

TFA grants, like this were made possible through donations to The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation.

LEGION Act

In the spirit of the Legion 100th celebration, Congress took immediate action so we may welcome and recognize through membership all of our fellow veteran brothers and sisters and their families. A select number of members of Congress have come together in bipartisan fashion to pass S. 504 and H.R. 1641. This news was received with overwhelming support from the Sons of the American Legion across this nation. The potential growth in membership from this is extremely exciting and one we should take advantage of.

Clifton Guillory

Acting Legislative Chairman

The Finance Committee started
at 10:02 a.m. on 09.29.19.

8:35 a.m

Attendees:

- ✓ Kevin Winkelman
- ✓ Commander Eddy Seegers
- ✓ Henry Creech
- ✓ John Kingston
- ~~David Moore~~
- ~~David Paris~~
- ✓ Tom Arista
- ✓ Roy Fallow
- ~~Dustin Moore~~

We discussed Detachment finances and
Henry Creech will go into detail.

8:45

The meeting concluded at 11:26 a.m.

Mosh on Floor

Mil-~~er~~

Pulfr¹

Due Invoice \$300.00



28 September 2019

Boys State Report 2019

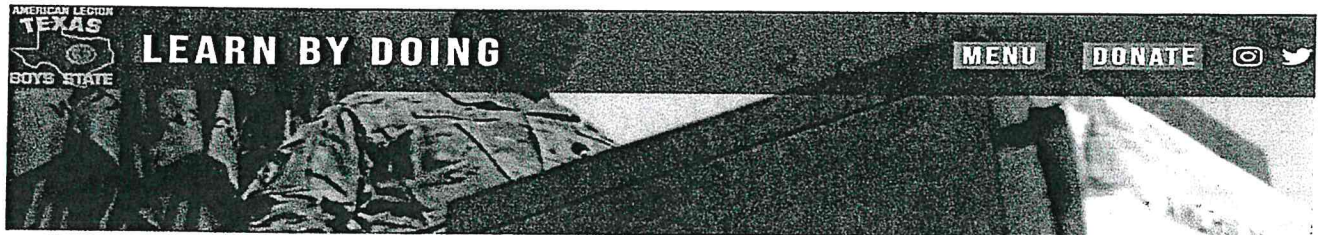
The Boys State Program will be held at the University of Texas at Austin June Austin Texas.

Program Dates: June 07-12, 2020

Location Change: For the past 4 years, we had been located in the Kinsolving dorm on west campus. We will be relocating back to Jester. Stay tuned to the website for further information.

Boys State Website:

The Boys State website was re-launched this past summer, we will continue to upload new content and updating the current information The address is still the same, and can be found at www.texasboysstate.com



WHAT IS TEXAS BOYS STATE?

2020 Applications Will Be Available Later This Fall

Stay tuned to the winter newsletter and the website for more information. If you have detailed questions, feel free to contact me, I am on the board of directors and involved with the year-round planning. My email is tmarreaga82@outlook.com

Respectfully Submitted,

Travis Arreaga
Boys State Chairman
Assistant Director, Texas Boys State

Department of Texas
District Executive Committee Meetings
September 25-29, 2019

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AMERICANISM: Report given by Chairman Brad Henderson
(Members: 6th District Commander Ken Peters, Jr.; 17th District Commander Ray Dering;
Detachment of Texas Chaplain Ed Parnell)

- a. **9-11 Anniversary.** Squadron 50 in Cleburne recognized those who lost their lives, and their local first responders with a Proclamation by the Mayor, and a celebration that included a POW/MIA table.
- b. **Flood Victim Assistance.**
 - (1) Multiple Squadrons are providing volunteers and are working in the area. We are awaiting reports on the amount of monies being spent.
 - (2) The 13th District has a cookout and other fundraisers ongoing.
 - (3) The 6th District has donated \$500 to Crosby and \$250 to Beaumont.
 - (4) Squadron 491 in Granbury has donated \$350 to Crosby and \$350 to Beaumont.
 - (5) The Committee will provide more information at the Midwinter Conference.
- c. **National Emergency Fund (NEF)** Squadron 179 (New Braunfels) has donated \$500 to the NEF.
- d. **Community Service.** Squadrons were reminded to keep track of their community service hours, which can include flying the American Flag. Each hour flown counts as one service hour. If the American Flag is illuminated, 24 hours of community service can be credited for each day the flag is flown.
- e. **Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Input.** Squadrons were reminded to turn in their community service hours well in advance of the Department Convention (July 8-12, 2020).

The Awards Committee meet at 12 pm 09-28-19

Members present

Roy Fowler Chair

Ken Dorsett Member

Milton Chatham PDC

We discussed how to get more people to put in nominee's for awards this coming year .

Motion made by Ken Dorsett to resend any other motion and moved To make the cutoff date for awards to be turned in May 1st seconded By Milton Chatham, Motion passed

Meeting ended 12.20 pm

Roy Fowler

Awards Chair

Detachment O f Texas

Children & Youth/Child Welfare Committee

Meeting was held on September 28, 2019 at the Omni Hotel. Present at the meeting were: Tracy Wood, Chairman, Shannon Boyce, Chairman, Brad Pack, Past Commander, Michael Carrigan, 13th District Commander, Gary Winters, PDC, Zach Jennings, Sergeant at Arms, and Dusty Fowler, 4th District Commander. Below are subjects discussed during this meeting:

- Credentials Committee Chairman and treasured member, Bart Kleespies, passed away prior to receiving his due compensation for serving on the Credentials Committee at the State Convention. At his daughter's recommendation, it was determined \$500.00 would be donated to the Children & Youth/Child Welfare Committee for a plaque to be created in his name. Motion submitted by Brad Pack and seconded by Michael Carrigan.
- The Children & Youth/Child Welfare raffle prizes were determined as follows: 1st Place, fishing trip to Lake Texarkana with a 2-night hotel stay and a \$100.00 gift card, 2nd Place, \$100.00 gift card, and 3rd place, \$50.00 gift card. Tickets will be sold for \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00. The member who sells the highest number of tickets will win \$100.00 worth of tickets with 2nd and 3rd highest selling members receiving \$50.00 and \$25.00 worth of tickets respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tracy Wood, Chairman
Children & Youth**

**Shannon Boyce, Chairman
Child Welfare**

V.A. & R Committee

Meeting was held on September 28, 2019, during lunch from 12-1:30pm. Present at the meeting were: Bret Kleespies, Chairman, Dusty Fowler, 4th District Commander, Jonathan Montgomery, Squadron 208, and Chad Roden, 1st District Commander.

During this meeting, no new business was brought forth. The following squadron reports are as follows:

Post 208:

- Supplication of bookshelves to VA Hospital for donated books.
- Donating \$750.00 in support of a hunting trip for disabled Veterans.
- Venison meat donation to the Veterans Feeding Veteran's Program.
- Hosting of 150 Legacy Riders at Freedom Hall to include serving meals to all.

Post 243:

- Renamed the Post Canteen for deceased Veteran, Robert Lee Merrill.
- Served meals to and entertained 36 Bunham Veterans.
- Delivered membership cards to Veterans within nursing homes.

Post 573:

- Donated \$100.00 to Temple VA Bingo Night for snacks and drinks.

Respectfully submitted,

Bret Kleespies, Chairman

AMERICANISM

WESTIN
HOTELS & RESORTS

small sq 120 Wichita Falls
community service Hours

med sq 208 For EVERY thing
453 they do

large sq 152 Love Field
working together + Flag Etiquette

5th Dis Comm Service

Bays State (Bridge Builder)
(Foundation)

Ken Peters Jr

Ed Parnel

PPC Connie Wickell

And 3 other Son's

