



The American Legion Department of Florida 5th District



*Commander Fred Matthews
Vice Commander Troy Horsley
Vice Commander
Danny Rodriguez*



Adjutant Sonny Kirkwood

www.al5thdistrictfl.org

5th District Constitutional Conference (DCC) Minutes May 14, 2017 @ Post 137 Revision 5-17-2017

The Conference was called to order by Commander Fred Matthews at 0918 hours.

Salute to Colors
Prayer by Chaplain
POW/MIA Remembrance
Pledge of Allegiance
American Legion Preamble
5th District Post Everlasting Ceremony
DCC Opening Ceremony

Roll Call of Posts: 16 Posts represented with 10 Commanders present. Total members signed-in: 56

5th District Post Everlasting fallen comrades (2016-2017):

- Post 37: Clyde Barnett, Michael Bryant, William Chretien, Rogers Daniels, Donald Felt, Theodore Harrington Jr., Edward Hiers Sr., Gene Hurley, Bernard Loughlin, Joseph Tisone, Ronald Wilson, Gary Neihart, James Thompson.
- Post 54: Bobby Blison, R Coleman, Fred Engelhard, Robert Griffin, Albert Jastram, John J Joyce, Richard J Lapland, Claude F Littlest, R Terry Vurnakes, Elbert E Wiggged Jr., Robert E Wilcox
- Post 88: James Berry, Joseph McKinney, Mike Sedor.
- Post 129: Jessie C Busby, Stuart A Gammie, Raymond Gannon, George T Hardy, James H Mabry Sr., Eugene P “Sam” Malone, Theodore R Roycraft, Delmas H “Steve” Stevers.
- Post 137: Ted Newton, Hager Allen Porter, James Joe Carryl, Francis Joseph Smith, Armando R Ciccone, John William Brown, Carlton B Sumner, Tommy Smith, Thomas Gray, Gerland Raymond Keil, Robert Bartell Reynolds, Donald Richard Anderson, Albert Florino Sciarratta, John Gordon, Edward A Brannan Jr., Lawrence H McFarlin, Rudolph Lauro, Charles Legare, T.J. Parker, Sanford S Rooks Sr., Robert C Tice, Curtis Leroy Browning, Kenneth O Warren, Charles Frank Robert Jr.
- Post 197: Jimmie Hamilton, Charles Lacey, Robert Folds, Leonard Gadson, Carstairs Jackson Sr., Anthony Tallie, Henry Chance Sr., Nelson Cook.

**5th District Constitutional Conference Minutes
May 14, 2017 @ Post 137**

- Post 233: Wilbur Burnett, Ira Lee Chelette, Ralph Chianelli, Mark E Dorsey, Robert Eisenberg, Gene Leary Sr., George Mente, John Middleton, Edward Piritzky, Eugene Quinn, Raymond Tritton, Melvin Vangundy
- Post 283: Hugh J Schulman, Ted T Newman, George R Brough, David Coates, Jerome Seefried, Abner Sistare, Richard Ward, Maurice Shuman, Doyle Hall, Stephen Holzappel, Robert L Kline, Stanley Swenson, Thomas Hunter, Jack Burnmeister, James McHale, Jack Burnmeister, James McHale, Alfred Salzer, Timothy Wynn, Ken Jager, Harold Chadell
- Post 316: Stanley Abramson, Richard Asquith, Robert W Beazley, Harry W Crews, Norman Dunn, Clifford Edgar, Richard H Fichter, Morton Golde, William H Hightower III, William Klimaszewski, Haston Long, Otis "Hank" Morgan, Patrick C Power, Franklin D Roy, Thomas Sullivan, Will E Washington, Bennett B Wood Jr.
- Post 372: Woodson Dudley, James Graves, Albert Sciarratta, Arthur Snure
- Post 373: Richard Achenbach, Nelson Allen, David W Anfinson, Travis Barnett, William Bubb, Robert Burnell, Thomas Carson, Paul A Corless, James Culbertson, Logan Dietzman, Ted L Dullano, Bill England, Chalres D Gaylord, George A Hamric, James M Hare, John R Hatfield, James Hughes, William E Jamison, James W Jones, Richard C Kapfer, William Kervin, Edward Keyes, Jerome E Klemm, Burton Lungmas, Larry F Mahar, Russell A Mitchell, Gary R Mickless, William R O'Cain, Darrell Peters, Robert R Richards, Charles L Rieks, David G Robinson, Walter W Spangler Jr., Howard Summers, Gregg Tardiff, Norman Welch, Haskell E Wright, Bill W Wright.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Officer Lena Heredia-Perez: (No written Finance Report submitted; verbal overview of finances, motioned, approved subject to audit).

Checking Account balance as of May 14th: \$582.71

Savings Account as of May 14th: \$4,257.94

CD Account as of May 14th: \$533.43

Total assets: \$5,374.08

Note: \$500 transferred from Savings to Checking to cover Boys State transportation costs (\$2,300.00). Funds for the Hospitality Room are roughly \$1,300.00 short of the required \$3K needed! Post 250 conducted a fund raiser and donated \$250 towards the upcoming expenditures for 5th District. BRAVO ZULU to Post 250!

Introduction of District, Department and National Officers (Past and Present). Dianne Boland (2nd Vice Department Commander), Jerry Brandt (Department Membership Chairman), John Rose (Northern Area Commander), National Vice Commander SAL Bill Kelly, Department Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Gora, Past Department Commander Larry White, Andy Burnett (National Baseball Chairman), National Executive Committeeman Dennis Boland, Joe Magee (Department Commander), Past National Commander Clarence Hill, Steve Shuga (1st Vice Department Commander). Commander Matthews also thanked and praised all 5th District Officers and Chairpersons for their support over the years.

5th District Constitutional Conference Minutes
May 14, 2017 @ Post 137

Department Commander (DC) Magee was escorted to the podium. Commander Magee thanked everyone in 5th District for their support throughout his tenure as Department Commander; his visit to 5th District with the hospitality and warm welcome everyone displayed during his visit. Commander Magee presented Certificate of Service Citations to Commander Matthews, Vice Commanders Troy Horsley, Danny Rodriguez and all Post Commanders/Adjutants. Citation read: ***“Has served the American Legion with distinction and high honor which contributed to the betterment of our communities, the Department of Florida and the Nation.”***

Department Membership Chairman Jerry Brandy announced the Posts that have achieved 100% membership: Posts 197, 129, 9, 102, 401, 54! District is at 95.65%; 6th place within the Department of Florida. Direct Mailing Solicitation (DMS) for State of Florida is 8,379 members. As of April 12th – we have 7,880 new members within Department of Florida. 3,200 members went to Post Everlasting. Talked about the National Commander’s pin for obtaining three new members. Addressed future planning for membership (July 4th, etc...) as opportunities to obtain new members/renewals! Jerry Brandt announced he is a candidate for the high office of Department of Florida 3rd Vice Commander 2017-2018.

Candidates’ Call (2017-2018): Gerry Kaufuan (Department Historian), Barry Roberts (Department Chaplain), Bill Reno (Department Chaplain), Jerry Brandt (Department 3rd Vice Commander), Eunice Butts (Department 3rd Vice Commander), Tom Gora (Department Sergeant-at-Arms), Dianne Boland (Department 1st Vice Commander), Stephen Shuga (Lead Candidate for Department Commander), Jeff Durden (Northern Area Commander), Lawson Dukes (Northern Area Commander),

National Executive Committeeman Dennis Boland addressed the forum: Membership (when he was District Commander in the early 90’s) the American Legion had 3.25 million members; to-date we are currently at 2.1 million members and projections indicate the American Legion may fall under the 2 million mark! At one point, the American Legion had over 15,000 Posts – now at 13,000 Posts. 77 Charters were turned-in and approved by the National Executive Committee; 4 in the State of Florida. National Executive Committee looks at personality conflicts within failing posts and the common dominator is that they overlook why they exist; they don’t exist for the betterment of the American Legion – they didn’t do anything to enhance their membership. Historically, we have had 122,000 DMS members; this year only 94,589 to date with 8,379 members in Florida. Talked about the SAL National Commander’s initiative to raise \$1 million dollars for the Child Welfare Foundation; to date raised over \$682,000.

National Vice Commander (SAL) Bill Kelly addressed the forum. We are under-utilizing the SAL within our Posts; encouraged Post Commanders to bring your SAL Commanders to the meetings, they are your advocates to help veterans!

Robbin Walker (5th District President 2016-2017) introduced Molly Main (Unit 54) as the newly elected 5th District President for 2017-2018.

Commander Matthews presented Commander Myra Jowers (Post 372) a plaque for her selection as 5th District 2016-2017 Post Commander of the Year. Commander Matthews praised Post 372 as a model start-up Post; unfortunately, Myra and her husband are moving out-of-State and will be truly missed by the 5th District.

5th District Constitutional Conference Minutes
May 14, 2017 @ Post 137

American Legion Baseball Chairman Andy Burkett (also Chairman for Americanism) addressed the forum. Florida (5th District) is leading the way in Florida with 27 teams (3 Junior Teams). Talked about the American Legion Baseball scheduled for July 9th. More information to follow. For Americanism, he has only received two reports from Posts regarding Americanism – encouraged Posts to submit their reports.

Vice Commander Danny Rodriguez addressed the forum regarding the Hospitality Room for the upcoming Department Convention. Need Posts to make donations ASAP! Requested assistance/volunteers to assist with the Hospitality Room. Asked Commanders to solicit your SAL and Auxiliary for donations to ensure the 5th District shows that the “Mighty 5th” is leading the way!

First Vice Department Commander (Lead Candidate for Department Commander) Stephen Shuga announced that Commander Fred Matthews will be the next Department Membership Chairman for the State of Florida.

5th District Election Results for 2017-2018:

Commander (2017-2018): Troy Horsley (unanimous vote/uncontested).
1st Vice Commander: Danny Rodriguez (unanimous vote/uncontested).
2nd Vice Commander: Roy Havekost (unanimous vote/uncontested).

5th District Delegates for 2017-2018: Troy Horsley, Fred Matthews, Bill Reno, Scott Pageau, Tom Gora, and Jerry Brandt.

POST REPORTS

Written reports received from Posts 54, 129, 250, 283, 372 and Social Media Chairman.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the membership.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the membership.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence received.

**5th District Constitutional Conference Minutes
May 14, 2017 @ Post 137**

FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION

The next 5th District Meeting will be held on August 13, 2017 at Post 316 (1400). There being no further business to come before the membership, the Conference was closed in due form by Commander Fred Matthews at 1145.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonny Kirkwood
Adjutant 5th District
Department of Florida

Approved:

Fred Matthews
Commander, 5th District
Department of Florida