

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF TEXAS DETACHMENT CONVENTION 2026 AUSTIN, TEXAS

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 of Texas to convene on Friday July 10, 2026 at 1:00 pm, Saturday July 11, 2026 at 9:30AM and Sunday July 12, 2026 at 9:00AM at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin, TX

Hotel Locations

THE AMERICAN LEGION

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Renaissance Hotel

9721 Arboretum Blvd.

Austin, TX 78759

512-343-2626

RATE---\$121.00 PER NIGHT

CUTOFF, June 16, 2026

AGENDA

You will find the agenda enclosed. All meetings will be held at the Renaissance Hotel (room to be determined) along with all Committee meetings. Please review the enclosed schedule times for Committees.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Please see the attached remarks from Detachment Commander Dorsett

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Please make sure all Officers, Chairman and District and Squadron Commanders address changes are reported as soon as they occur. This includes e-mail addresses. Please e-mail me all correspondence if possible. Again, this year, we have started pre-registration for all delegates and members to the Detachment Convention. Please review the enclosed registration form and return it, filled out with your payment to the Department of Texas, to Kevin Winkelmann, Detachment Adjutant. Pre-registration will be \$30.00 and on-site registration will be \$40.00. Under 18 will be \$5.00. Also, please remember to fill out your paperwork for your delegate strength to receive your votes for the Detachment Convention. Look at our website for the form or find it in this newsletter. Your voting strength is determined by your Squadron's membership, 30 days prior to the Detachment Convention. This date will be June 10, 2026. Finally, a note on membership transmittals. Please make sure all transmittals are filled out correctly and include payment for your members in the form of a check, money order or a cashier's check. NO CASH!!! Also, please keep a copy for your records. Our next meeting will be the Detachment Fall Conference in Austin, TX, September 25-27, 2026. The location of the meeting will be the Renaissance Hotel. Their phone number is 512-343-2626 and the room rates are \$159.00 per

night. Please make your reservations as soon as possible. Finally, the election of new officers is upon us. Please remit your Squadron, District or Division Certification of Officers as soon as you can. This will help with the process of getting your cards quicker. We will be having a special guest at our meetings that weekend so please reach out to them, be friendly and stay cool.

FINANCE

ATTENTION: PDC's, Detachment Officers, Committee Chairmen, District Commanders
I plan to send the confirmation email for the Detachment Convention during the month of May or early June. If you plan to attend the convention and wish to receive your call-in at the convention, you must confirm by the second Sunday in June. Otherwise, you will not receive your check until August. This is a 3-day convention. You must answer roll call each day and attend your assigned committee meeting to receive your call-in. See you in Austin.

George Alva, Detachment Finance Officer
Home 210-269-7951
E-mail georgealva2000@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER

We are seeing a very good response from the redesigned website. The website is a tool for you to use to make your job a little easier. We have most forms and up to date info on coming events posted. If there is something you would like to add to the website, please let me know. We can post your newsletters, coming events and pictures from your events. Right now, we are really looking for pictures of the local events from around the Detachment. If you have an event and have pictures of the Commander or other Detachment guests, please send them to me so I can get them up on the website. We will also soon be adding pictures of all the Detachment Officers and would like pictures of all the District Commanders. If you hold an event that you would like to have the pictures posted, please include what the event was, the date of the event and the names of the people pictured. We have all the room in the world, so send all the info and pictures you can and let's show the nation what Texas is doing. Also remember we still have our Facebook page and it is there for you to use.

Please send all this information to webmaster@laketexomadesigns.com .

Gary Winters
Webmaster

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

As everyone should know by now, we now have our office at Headquarters back up and running. It is there for every member's use. We will be sending out the newsletters in email form and/or regular mail delivery. Hopefully, we can accomplish some good results and will get further input at the Fall DEC in September. As always, if there are questions, concerns, issues and/or complaints, all correspondence must go through Detachment Adjutant Winkelmann first, or if he is not available, next through Detachment Commander Dorsett or Department Advisor Jeff Perkins. All items must be in letter form or be emailed if possible. Adjutant Winkelmann can be reached at 817-994-7394 cell or email at knwink@msn.com. Commander Dorsett can be reached at 432-664-2361 or email at kh.dorsett@yahoo.com. Please adhere to these rules so as not to create more controversy. If you plan to use our office at Department Headquarters, please inform Department Adjutant Bill West or IA Director Mike Simon upon arrival.

AGENDA

OPENING SESSION, FRIDAY JULY 10-----1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER-----COMMANDER DORSETT

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

INVOCATION-----CHAPLAIN BRAD HENDERSON

**MOMENT OF SILENCE, RESOLUTION FOR POW/MIA FLAG, RESOLUTION FOR
BLUE STAR BANNER AT ALL MEETINGS-----COMMANDER DORSETT**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-----1ST DIVISION COMMANDER WOLF LAUGHING

PREAMBLE-----2ND DIVISION COMMANDER JOSEPH THOMAS

ROLL CALL-----ADJUTANT KEVIN WINKELMANN

READING OF MINUTES-----ADJUTANT KEVIN WINKELMANN

APPOINTMENTS TO CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE-----COMMANDER DORSETT

GREETINGS TO THE CONVENTION-----NEC BILL KUEHNER

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUEST-----NEC BILL KUEHNER

**PRESENTATION OF OUR SPECIAL GUEST-----BILL CLANCY
NATIONAL COMMANDER, 2025-2026
DETACHMENT OF NEW YORK**

**FIRST READING OF CREDENTIALS-----PARLIAMATARIAN ROY FOWLER
OR CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW CHANGES-----PARLIAMATARIAN ROY FOWLER

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (IF NECESSARY) -----COMMANDER DORSETT

NEC REPORT-----NEC BILL KUEHNER

COMMITTEE MEETINGS-----3:00 TO 5:00

- A) CHILDREN & YOUTH
- B) AMERICANISM
- C) PUBLIC RELATIONS
- D) VA & R
- E) VE & E
- F) LEGISLATIVE

- G) PUFL
- H) MARKETING
- I) AWARDS
- J) FINANCE
- K) MEMBERSHIP/INTERNAL AFFAIRS
- L) NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CAMPAIGN

RECESS UNTIL 9:30 AM SATURDAY MORNING

SATURDAY JULY 11, 2026

LEADERSHIP CLASS BY DETACHMENT ADJUTANT KEVIN WINKELMANN

The class will be open to all members; however, it is highly recommended that all District Commanders and Detachment Chairmen attend this class due to the nature of information provided. The class starts at 8:00 and lasts until 9:15

CALL TO ORDER, 9:30 AM-----COMMANDER DORSETT

INVOCATION-----CHAPLAIN BRAD HENDERSON

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-----3RD DIVISION COMMANDER NICK ARCEVO

PREAMBLE-----4TH DIVISION COMMANDER ANDY BROWNING

ROLL CALL-----ADJUTANT KEVIN WINKELMANN

LIAISON REPORT-----JEFF PERKINS, DEPARTMENT ADVISOR

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- CREDENTIALS—2ND READING BY COMMITTEE
- LEGISLATIVE
- PUFL
- VA & R
- PUBLIC RELATIONS
- AWARDS
- AMERICANISM
- CHILDREN & YOUTH
- MARKETING
- VE & E
- FINANCE
- INTERNAL AFFAIRS/MEMBERSHIP
- CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE—IF NECESSARY

IF COMMITTEE REPORTS ARE NOT COMPLETE BY 12:00, WE WILL BREAK FOR LUNCH TILL 1:30

**COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUE
SQUADRON, DISTRICT AND DIVISION COMMANDER REPORTS**

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

DETACHMENT COMMANDER KEN DORSETT'S FINAL REPORT

**IF THE TIME REACHES 4:00PM AFTER COMMANDER ALVA'S REPORT, WE
WILL RECESS UNTIL SUNDAY MORNING. PENDING PARTICIPATION, THE
5-STAR PROGRAM CLASS WILL START AT 4:15 PM. IF TIME PERMITS AND NO
5-STAR CLASS IS HELD, WE WILL CONTINUE WITH REGULAR ORDER OF
BUSINESS PENDING APPROVAL OF THE BODY**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

RECESS UNTIL SUNDAY AT 9:00AM

SUNDAY JULY 12, 2026

CALL TO ORDER, 9:00 AM-----COMMANDER DORSETT

INVOCATION-----CHAPLAIN BRAD HENDERSON

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-----FINANCE CHAIRMAN LEWIS ELAM

PREAMBLE-----MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN ED PARNELL

ROLL CALL-----ADJUTANT KEVIN WINKELMANN

PRESENTATION OF 5 STAR AWARDS (IF NECESSARY)

**FINAL REPORT OF CREDENTIALS-----PARLIAMATARIAN ROY FOWLER
OR CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS-----PARLIAMATARIAN ROY FOWLER

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS, DETACHMENT OF TEXAS 2026-2027

CLOSING OF MEETING-----NEWLY ELECTED DETACHMENT COMMANDER

BENEDICTION-----CHAPLAIN BRAD HENDERSON

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

POST DEC MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CLOSE OF MEETING

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AUSTIN, TX---JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1, 2026

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 9:40 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 9:46. Roll call was then asked for. All officers were present except for NEC Kuehner(E) and Alt. NEC Elam(E). All Chairmen were present except for Finance Elam(E). Districts present were 1C, 2C, 3C, 4C, 5C, 6, 7C, 9C, 10C, 11C, 12, 13C, 14C, 15, 16C, 17, 18C, 20, 21C and 22. Squadrons present were 12, 54, 62, 89C, 92C, 120C, 122C, 163C, 172, 179, 198C, 208C, 220, 243, 245, 283, 291, 319C, 322C, 430, 447, 472, 522C, 573C, 593, 597C, 618C, 624C, 654 and 817. A quorum was established. Commander Dorsett then asked for the reading of the minutes. Motion was made by Tim Webb, 2nd by JT Thomas, to waive the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

NEC---Commander Dorsett then asked acting NEC Kingston to come forward to give his report. He reported on the Fall NEC. He then introduced Sons of The American Legion National Vice Commander Southeast Bryan Hines, Detachment of Tennessee, and he came forward to bring greetings to the body. His words of encouragement were heard and appreciated by all.

Commander Dorsett then recessed the body for Committee meetings. Meeting recessed at 10:15 AM.

Meeting was called back to order at 10:35 AM

Department of Texas Boys State Chairman Clifton Guillory came forward to bring greetings and speak about the Boys State program. The fund raiser the Detachment sponsored was completed and the money raised across the state was presented.

Department Commander Rich Huntley came forward to bring greetings to the body. He spoke on the importance of Flags for Heros.

Department President Leigh-Ann Stewart came before the body to bring greetings.

Guest speaker from Green Suiters Outdoors spoke to the body about their Non-Profit organization. Spoke about what they do and how it changes lives for Veterans, active duty military and first responders.

PARLIMATARIAN/ C&BL--- Chairman Roy Fowler came forward to give his report. A resolution of endorsement for Detachment Commander for year 2026-2027 was read. Detachment Adjutant came forward and gave a report on the C&BL. A copy will be sent out for review to have all changes made and given to the Department Americanism committee for review by May 1st. A finalized proposed copy will be placed up for vote at detachment convention. Motion made by JT Thomas to accept the report, 2nd by Jerry Renard. Motion passed

DEPARTMENT LIAISON--- Jeff Perkins came forward to give his report. He talked to the body about to give thanks for the importance of the S.A.L. to the legion, he spoke on the bike ride they made to Tampa Bay and the funds they raised. He spoke on future rides for homeless veterans, St. Jude's and other programs.

LEGISLATIVE—Chairman Johnson came forward to give the report. He reported on various items from the Texas Legislation sessions, covering National Programs and upcoming Legislative items, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and other items. He presented some of those to the floor. He spoke about a new VA hospital to be built. A complete report is attached to these minutes. After his report was read, Jerry Renard made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Ed Parnell. Motion passed.

VE & E—Chairman Kleespies came forward to give the report. Following his remarks about the different programs on Education and employment Opportunities, Ed Parnell made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Tom Arista. 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 Flags for Heros program and the reports sent back to him, Squadron CSR's. He asked that a copy of CSR's please be sent to him for early review before Detachment Convention. He also spoke on the various events that fall under Americanism and what we need to do as a group to support all the Americanism program. Zach Jennings came up and spoke on Boys State orientation for statesman and parents. Milton Chatham made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by JT Thomas. Motion passed. A copy of this report will be attached to these minutes.

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. He reported VA&R accomplishments from both the Detachment and from the Southeast Region. Roy Fowler also gave a report on the ASYMCA in Killeen. If supplies are sent to Killeen they will need to be sent to Roy Fowler, for Fort Bliss the supplies can be sent to David Blair. Money can be sent to Harker Heights 573 for Killeen or to Odessa 430 for Fort Bliss. Eddie Seegers spoke about the Be The One project and training. BeTheOne.org. Cody Rodgers came forward to present a check for helping with the ASYMCA. Motion was made by Jean Maxwell, 2nd by Ed Parnell. During discussion the donations were brought up but not discussed with finance, the 2nd and the motion were rescinded. Kevin Winkleman made a motion to accept the report minus the \$1000 and the line item for future donations to Fisher house, 2nd by Jerry Renard. Motion passed. A complete report is attached to these minutes.

Commander Dorsett then recessed the meeting at 11:45 AM for lunch break

Commander Dorsett called the meeting back into session at 1:15 PM

CHILDREN & YOUTH— Chairman Carriger with Vice-Chairman Webb came forward to the report. The committees are working together to jointly handle all projects under their Committees. They spoke about the different charities they support; they brought up a new change, creating a C&Y grant which will be on the website. They also said there are items for sale from the CWF group. Announced Squadron 208 annual bowling tournament. They spoke about C.O.T.A, an organization meant to raise money to help children needing emergency organ transplants (COTA.org). Tracy Woods came up and spoke about the national C&Y as well as projects he has been working on. Pool tournament will be held immediately after the meeting. A raffle will be done for a Side of beef and a deep freeze, to be drawn at Convention. Motion made by Mike Carriger to accept the report, 2nd by Ed Parnell. Motion passed. A complete report is attached to these minutes.

MARKETING—Chairman Hartline came forward to give his report. He noted some accomplishments made by the Marketing Committee. Spoke about a possible new color for shirts at convention. Ed Parnell made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Jerry Renard. Motion passed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER CAMPAIGN FUND---Ray also spoke to the body concerning the National Commander Campaign Fund and spoke about a Texas shirt for anyone who goes to National Convention.

PUBLIC RELATIONS– Chairman Wolf Laughing came forward to give the report. Discussions include Community outreach, He spoke about the legacy page on our website, TEXALPA, CSR and other PR programs. Jerry Renard made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Andy Browning, Motion passed. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

AWARDS---Dustin Fowler came forward to give the report. He stated that there are forms available for use on the website as well as in a future email to be sent out. He also spoke about all the awards that are available and what comes with each award. All forms must be submitted prior to May 31st. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Jerry Renard made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by JT Thomas. Motion passed.

PUFL— Chairman Winkelmann gave the report. He spoke about the total members in the PUFL program, total amount of members that have passed and total funds in the PUFL account. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Kevin made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Ed Parnell. Motion passed.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS/MEMBERSHIP— Chairman Parnell 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. Henry Creech then made a motion to accept the report as read, 2nd by Tom Arista. During discussion Kevin Winkleman spoke about reaching out to squadrons about turning in certifications, spoke about inactive squadrons and those who have membership turned in without a certificate of officers. He also spoke about retention awards for those that get the highest retention rate. Motion passed. A complete report is attached to these minutes.

CHAPLAIN REPORT---Detachment Chaplain Henderson came forward to give the report. He spoke on members and family of members going through trying times.

FINANCE—Chairman Elam wasn't present; Finance Officer Alva 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 Alva to accept the report as read, 2nd by Ed Parnell. In Discussion it was clarified that only two line items were to be paid out being Baseball and Boy Scouts. Motion passed. It was also stated that the report be put aside for audit.

Commander Dorsett then recessed the meeting at 3:15 PM until 9:00am Sunday morning.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Commander Dorsett called the meeting back into session at 9:05 AM. Following hand salute to the colors, prayer, pledge and preamble, Commander Dorsett called the meeting to order. The roll call was then asked for. All officers were present except for NEC Kuehner Alt. NEC Elam. Chairman not attending were Finance Elam. Districts present were 1C, 2C, 3C, 4C, 5C, 6, 7C, 9C, 10C, 11C, 12, 13C, 14C, 15, 16C, 17, 18C, 20, 21C and 22. Squadrons present were 12, 54, 62, 89C, 92C, 120C, 163C, 172, 179, 198C, 208C, 220, 245, 283, 291, 319C, 321C, 430, 447, 472, 522C, 573C, 593, 618C, 654, and 817C. A quorum was established.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS--- Kevin Winkleman spoke about possibly raising the dues by \$1.00 every two years for the next ten years looking for input into the idea from the body, he then spoke about various programs such as Boy's State. Kevin Winkleman brought up a possible line item for future National Candidates out of Texas. Kevin then Spoke about the detachment getting volunteers and possible donations to help renovate department headquarters.

NEW BUSINESS—A Motion was made by Tom Arista to donate \$3,000 to Jon Kingstons campaign for National Vice Commander Southeast Region, 2nd by Ed Parnell. Discussion was brought up asking where the money would come from. It was asked to see if any funds were left over from Juan Torres' campaign as National Vice Commander. Motion and the 2nd was rescinded. A new motion was made by Tom Arista for \$1,200 for this up coming N.E.C. to be offset by any donations made, 2nd by ed Parnell. Motion passed.
An advisory Board was asked to be created for the 4 Pillars of the American Legion.

GOOD OF THE SAL—Various Squadrons reported on upcoming events. Wolf spoke about upcoming Oratorical Contest for the 1st Division. Ed Parnell announced giving out the last of the 100% hats for last year. CWF hat was passed around, raising \$504. Kevin Winkleman Reminded the body of the C&BL he will be sending out for review to everyone he can, asking the District Commanders to forward them to all Squadrons for input before the April 1st deadline. Tim Webb announced the winner of the pool tournament, Congrats Wolf Laughing. Kevin spoke of the 100 year anniversary ad hock committee at the National level.

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 9:58 AM