

DETACHMENT CONVENTION

AUSTIN, TEXAS

JULY 11-13, 2025

FRIDAY JULY 11, 2025

Meeting called to order by Commander Alva at 1:00 PM. Following the posting of the colors, the pledge, prayer and preamble were asked for. The Commander then called the meeting to order. The Commander then asked for all Squadron Commanders to stand and be recognized. He also asked for all Squadron Commanders that were here for the first time to stand and be recognized. The Commander then asked the Adjutant for the roll call. All officers were present except for Historian Moore, Parliamentarian Austin, excused, Department Liaison Creech, excused, and Asst. Sgt. At Arms Gattis, excused. All Chairmen were present except for Convention City Owens. Districts present were 1C, 2C, 3C, 4C, 5C, 6C, 7C, 9C, 10C, 11C, 12, 13C, 14C, 15C, 17C, 19C, 20C, 21C and 22. Squadrons present were 12, 43, 57, 77, 83, 88, 89, 92, 95, 120, 122, 133, 143, 163, 166, 179, 198, 208, 231, 245, 283, 291, 297, 319, 321, 424, 430, 447, 453, 472, 493, 511, 517, 522, 573, 593, 597, 618, 624, 654, 817 and 838. It was stated that a quorum was present. Commander Alva then called for the reading of the previous minutes. A motion was made by Ken Dorsett, 2nd by Gary Randall to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

Commander Alva then made some appointments to fill out some officers and Chairmen. Commander Alva asked for a motion to appoint Roy Fowler as Parliamentarian for this meeting only. Motion by Bill Kuehner, 2nd by Joseph Thomas, motion passed. Commander Alva appointed Tim Webb, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, with members Juan Torres and JT Thomas, where all individuals volunteered. Commander Alva then appointed Juan Torres Jr. as acting Detachment Asst.-Sgt.-At-Arms. Motion by Tom Arista, 2nd by JT Thomas to accept the appointment. Motion passed.

Commander Alva then asked the Parliamentarian to come forward for Constitution and By-Laws changes, plus reading of resolutions. He presented a change to the By-Laws for Finance, Article X. The changes were read to the body. Roy Fowler made a motion to accept Finance changes, 2nd by Tom Arista. Motion passed. One resolution was read for information only.

Commander Alva then read the full list of committees and meeting times. He asked that all District Commanders help with missing members of the various committees.

Adjutant Winkelmann then gave some brief notes to the body. The meeting then was recessed at 2:00 PM until Saturday morning.

SATURDAY JULY 12, 2025

Commander Alva called the meeting back into session at 9:03AM. Following hand salute to the colors, prayer and pledge, the meeting was called to order. Roll call was then taken. All officers were present except for Parliamentarian Austin, excused and Dept. Liaison Creech, excused. All chairmen were present. Districts present were 1C, 2C, 3C, 4C, 5C, 6, 7C, 9C, 10C, 11C, 12C, 13C, 14C, 15C, 16, 17C, 18C, 19C, 20C, 21C and 22C. Squadrons present were 12, 17, 43, 54, 57, 62, 77, 83, 89, 92, 93, 95, 99, 120, 133, 143, 163, 166, 172, 179, 198, 208, 231, 243, 245, 275, 283, 297, 319, 321, 424, 426, 430, 447, 453, 472, 493, 511, 517, 522, 554, 573, 593, 597, 618, 624, 654, 655, 817 and 838. It was stated that a quorum was present.

American Legion Auxiliary National President Trish Ward, from the Department of Kansas, came forward to bring greetings to the body. She gave some great words of encouragement for what we can do for our great country. She was escorted by NEC Shay Kuehner and National Americanism ALA Chairlady Cristine Trahan

Commander Alva then asked NEC Kingston to come forward to introduce our special guest, Joseph Navarette, National SAL Commander. From the Detachment of New Mexico. Commander Navarette then brought greetings to the body and thanked the Detachment for everything we do.

American Legion National Commander James A Lacorscer, from the Department of Connecticut, came forward to our body to bring greetings and offer many words of encouragement. He was introduced by the Texas NECman.

NEC---NEC Kingston came forward to give his report. He reported on various items from the past NEC meeting in Indianapolis this past May. Also reported on other items from different Detachments and what is going on in the National Organization. Jon made a motion to accept his report, 2nd by Ed Parnell. Motion passed

DEPARTMENT LIAISON—Advisor Creech was unable to attend due to family health issues. There was no report.

CREDENTIALS---Chairman Tim Webb came forward to give the report. The second report of Credentials was read to the body for information.

BOYS STATE—Chairman Jennings came forward to give his report. He gave a small report on Boys State that was held this past June. The report was from Chairman Huntley's mission statement. Ed Parnell then made a motion to accept his report, 2nd by JB Tomas. Motion Passed

CONVENTION CITY—Chairman Owens was not present to give the report.

INTERNET—Chairman Gary Winters gave the report. He asked that more information be sent to him to be put on the internet. He stated that the page for our parents and grandparents is not being used. He spoke to the body about fliers that are being sent in. He also spoke to the body about the upcoming 100th SAL Anniversary. A complete copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Motion by Gary Winters to accept the report, 2nd by Ed Parnell. Motion passed.

LEGISLATIVE—Chairman Johnson came forward to give the report. Chairman Johnson spoke to the body on various bills that are in the works to help support Veteran's issues, their needed help, and healthcare. A complete report is attached to these minutes. 2nd Division Commander JB Thomas made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Milton Chatham. Motion passed.

PUFL—Chairman Winkelmann gave the report. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Kevin made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Dustin Fowler. Motion passed.

VA & R—Chairman Jean Maxwell came forward to give the report. His first item in this report was about the AS YMCA donations, to be increased from \$5,000.00 (line item), to \$9,000.00. He stated that the small Squadron winner was Squadron 172, medium Squadron went to Squadron 208 and the large Squadron winner was Squadron 453. District 5 won the top District Award. He gave the total hours and monies donated to the body. Max then made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Jerry Renard. Motion passed. Milton made a motion to amend the report to exclude the donation from the report, 2nd by JB Thomas. Motion passed

unpl verified by Finance

PUBLIC RELATIONS—Chairman Laughing came forward to give the report. A complete report is attached to these minutes. The first item was to tell us that the Internet Committee will now fall under PR after this convention. Wolf spoke to the body on how to make sure you get the information that is presented to you. Be more vocal and put your information out to everyone. Motion by Wolf to accept the report, 2nd by Ed Parnell. Motion passed.

AWARDS—Chairman Dustin Fowler gave the report. The following winners are:

MEMBER OF THE YEAR-----PEDRO REYES, SQUADRON 573
DUAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR-----GARY WINTERS, SQUADRON 231
ADJUTANT OF THE YEAR-----JOHN ELLIS, SQUADRON 597
ADVISOR OF THE YEAR-----HENRY CREECH, POST 593
ANN HARTLINE/MAMIE HUGHES MOTHER OF THE YEAR---KIM PALASOTA, UNIT 618
SAL BOYS STATER OF THE YEAR-----JOSEPH CAMPBELL, SQUADRON 379
DAVID DEW VA & R OF THE YEAR-----ROY FOWLER, SQUADRON 573
Motion made by Dustin, second by Tim Webb to accept his report. Motion passed.

AMERICANISM—Chairman Kevin Baker came forward to give the report. He stated that the Americanism results were incredible for the number of reports received. He then announced the Squadron Americanism winners who were small Squadron was Dallas 275 , medium Squadron Dallas 424 and large Squadron was Harker Heights 573. The district winner was the 5th District. He then reported the total results for the year. He also presented a resolution to the body for \$3,000.00 for Flags for Heroes. Chairman Baker then made a motion to accept the report, minus the resolution, 2nd by Lewis Elam, Motion passed. JB Thomas made a motion to accept the resolution, 2nd by Ken Dorsett. Milton made a motion to amend the motion until Finance approves the funding, 2nd by Dustin Fowler. Motion passed. The original motion to pass the resolution is pending outcome of Finance report. Original resolution passed after discussion from the Finance Committee.

MARKETING—Chairman Ray Hartline gave the report. He spoke to the body about possibly selling old shirts at a discount rate and looking for new colors of shirts. He stated that sales are going very well. Ray made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Jerry Renard. Motion passed.

CHILDREN & YOUTH/ CWF—Chairman Michael Carriger, Children & Youth and Tim Webb, CWF Chairman, gave the report. They gave a brief rundown of all the reports turned in. The award winners are as follows: Large Dallas 554, Medium Carrollton 597, Small Dallas 511 and District 5 as the best district. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Motion by Tim Webb to accept the report, 2nd by Ken Dorsett, Motion passed.

Commander Alva then recessed the meeting till 1:00 for lunch

Commander Alva called the meeting back to order at 1:08 PM

VE & E---Chairman Parnell came forward to give his report. He asked if PDC Kingston to join him at the podium. Various items were dispatched to the body. PDC Kingston talked to the body about Veteran's employment in the workforce. A complete copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Ed made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Tom Arista. Motion passed.

FINANCE—Chairman Dorsett gave the report. He read the conditions of the budget to the body and how it will be funded. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Motion by Ken Dorsett, 2nd by JB Thomas. Milton brought some discussion on pending donations. Milton also asked that the Finance Committee be responsible to get funding reports for the Food Banks and disbursed to the body. Motion passed.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FUND---Finance Director Hartline came forward to give the report. He stated that the fund has \$23,600.00 in the account. A motion was made by Roy Fowler, 2nd by JB Thomas to transfer \$20,000.00 from the SAL reserve account to the National Commander Campaign Fund. Motion passed.

American Legion Auxiliary Department President Sharon Phelps came forward to bring greetings to the body. She thanked the body for their hard work and continued effort to help the Auxiliary.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS/MEMBERSHIP—Chairman Roy Fowler gave the report. A complete report is attached to these minutes. He spoke to the body on all the Detachment achievements accomplished this past

membership year. 100% Membership Caps and Pins will be presented to all 100% Squadrons. Roy made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Ed Parnell. Motion passed.

SQUADRON, DISTRICT AND DIVISION COMMANDER'S REPORT---No reports.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

Motion was made by JB Thomas to pay for all 18 delegates at a cost of \$35 per delegate for a total of \$630.00 plus 5 alternate delegates at a cost of \$35.00 for a total of \$175.00 and 4 guests at \$35.00 for a total of \$140.00. Total delegate fees are \$945.00. 2nd by Jerry Renard. Motion passed.

DETACHMENT COMMANDER GEORGE ALVA FINAL REPORT

Commander Alva gave his final report to the body. He was presented with his Past Detachment Commander's pin after his report. A motion was made to accept his report by Kevin Winkleman, 2nd by Roy Fowler. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS---None

NEW BUSINESS---None

GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION—There were many announcements made from the floor concerning the various Squadron and Post events. JB Thomas spoke to the body for the benefit of the organization. There were numerous comments concerning donations to the Kerrville Flood Relief. There was a notice of events that are happening at Post 447, Saturday afternoon, immediately following the close of this meeting.

After Adjutant notes, the meeting was recessed at 3:06PM

SUNDAY JULY 13, 2025

Commander Alva reconvened the meeting at 9:08AM. Following the hand salute to the colors, prayer and pledge, Commander Alva called the meeting to order. The Adjutant then completed the roll call. All officers were present except for Parliamentarian Austin, excused, and Dept. Liaison Creech, excused. All Chairmen were present. Districts present were 1C, 2, 3C, 4C, 5C, 6C, 7C, 9C, 10C, 11C, 12C, 13C, 14C, 15C, 16C, 17C, 18C, 19C, 20C, 21C and 22C. Squadrons present were 12, 43, 54, 57, 77, 88, 89, 92, 95, 99, 120, 133, 143, 163, 166, 172, 179, 198, 208, 231, 243, 245, 275, 283, 297, 319, 321, 353, 424, 430, 447, 453, 472, 490, 493, 511, 517, 522, 554, 573, 593, 597, 618, 624, 654, 655, 817 and 838. A quorum was present

Internal Affairs Director Mike Simon came to the meeting to bring greetings and give strong remarks to the body. We thank him for all his remarks.

CREDENTIALS—The final report of credentials was read by the Credentials Committee. A total of 282 delegates were reported to the floor. Motion was made by Kevin Winkelmann, 2nd by Gary Winters to accept the report and to release the Committee from their duty Motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The temporary/stand in Parliamentarian proceeded into the election. The new officers elected are as follows:

COMMANDER-----KEN DORSETT SQUADRON 430

1ST DIVISION-----WOLF LAUGHING SQUADRON 283

2ND DIVISION-----JT THOMAS SQUADRON 319

3RD DIVISION-----NICK ARCEVO SQUADRON 89

4TH DIVISION-----ANDY BROWNING WEATHERFORD 163

ADJUTANT-----KEVIN WINKELMANN SQUADRON 654

FINANCE OFFICER----GEORGE ALVA SQUADRON 593

HISTORIAN-----RAUL GARCIA SQUADRON 172
CHAPLAIN-----BRAD HENDERSON SQUADRON 245
PARLIMATARIAN-----ROY FOWLER SQUADRON 573
SGT-AT-ARMS-----NICOLAZ GATTIS SQUADRON 618
ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS—JUAN TORRES JR. SQUADRON 472
NEC-----BILL KUEHNER SQUADRON 297
ALT. NEC-----LEWIS ELAM SQUADRON 453

Installation of Newly Elected Detachment Officers was performed by PDC George Alva.

Newly elected Detachment Commander Ken Dorsett came forward to speak to the body. He was then presented with his Detachment cover and his badge.

Following Detachment Commander Dorsett's comments, final announcements were made. The Commander then called for the prayer and final words followed by the retirement of the colors. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

POST DEC MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 11:06AM by Detachment Commander Dorsett. Commander Dorsett read the new appointments for the Committees. A motion was made by Tim Webb, 2nd by Roy Fowler to accept the appointments. Some changes were made. Motion passed. Following some brief announcements by the Adjutant and being no further business, Commander Dorsett adjourned the meeting at 11:12AM

PASSED
7-12-25

2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION
DETACHMENT OF TEXAS
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Austin, Texas

July 11-13, 2025

Resolution: Endorsement and Support for the "Flying Flags For Heroes" Program

Submitted By: Love Field Squadron 453

WHEREAS, Nationally, The Sons of The American Legion has promoted participation of Squadrons to support the "Flying Flags for Heroes" Program to honor our deceased veterans by presenting and placing U.S. Flags on their gravesites which is to be reported on the Consolidated Squadron Report's Americanism Pillar section and;

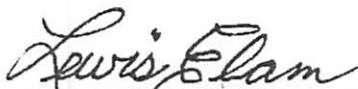
WHEREAS, The Detachment of Texas has previously adopted the "Flying Flags for Heroes" Program to encourage all Squadrons to present and place U.S. Flags on deceased veterans' graves at local community cemeteries and;

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is firm in their conviction that the "Flying Flags for Heroes" Program needs financial assistance to promote this program and;

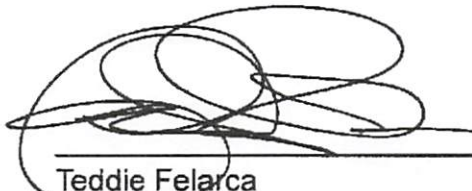
WHEREAS, This Detachment activity demonstrates valuable purposes of leadership, community presence, creating an esprit-de-corps, instilling group discipline, and otherwise building the quality of our citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Texas assembled in Austin, Texas, July 11-13, 2025, for the Detachment Convention, does hereby designate \$3,000 annually to the Americanism Committee, from the general fund, to promote Squadrons to participate in the "Flying Flags for Heroes" Program to present and place U.S. Flags on veteran gravesites. This funding will start with the 2025-2026 fiscal year and will continue each year thereafter.

Dated: June 12, 2025



Lewis Elam
Squadron 453 Commander



Teddie Felarca
Squadron 453 Adjutant

Approved
7-11-25

ARTICLE X

FINANCE

SECTION 1. The revenue of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Texas, shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Detachment Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. The minimum annual dues per member shall be set at a rate determined at each annual Detachment Convention, subject to approval by the Department Executive Committee, The American Legion, Department of Texas. If dues are not set at the annual Detachment Convention, the previous rate will remain in effect.

SECTION 3. The Sons of American Legion will pay a Call-In or limited expenses to select members to assist with expenses to attend the Detachment Convention and Detachment Executive Committee meetings.

- A. The Detachment Commander and Detachment Adjutant will be reimbursed for hotel and mileage expenses incurred while attending the Detachment Convention and Detachment Executive Committee meetings.
 - Hotel Expenses: Reimbursement is limited to the Legion block rate at the designated hotel, plus applicable taxes and fees.
 - Mileage Expenses: Reimbursement will be provided based on the current Texas Sons of the American Legion mileage rate for miles driven or for actual out-of-pocket fuel expenses.
- B. Detachment Officers (excluding the Commander and Adjutant), Committee Chairmen, District Commanders, Appointed Committee Chairmen, Appointed Officers, and Past Detachment Commanders of The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Texas, will receive a Call-In to attend the Detachment Convention and Detachment Executive Committee meetings. The Call-In includes a Per Diem and mileage reimbursement. The rate and number of days for the Per Diem and the mileage rate are set by the Detachment Executive Committee. Mileage reimbursement is based on the distance calculated using map software

between the member's home and the meeting location, excluding any mileage outside of Texas.

- Vice-Commanders of the Detachment and District Commanders must attend meetings and a committee meeting to receive the call-in.
- Committee Chairmen must attend meetings, their committee meeting, and submit a report of their committee meeting at each meeting to receive the call-in.

SECTION 4. Detachment Vice Commanders are eligible for reimbursement of certain travel-related expenses incurred while performing duties associated with their position. Reimbursable expenses are generally limited to mileage and hotel costs, subject to an established annual maximum.

- **Mileage Reimbursement:** Reimbursement is calculated either based on the current Texas Sons of the American Legion mileage rate or the actual out-of-pocket fuel expenses.
- **Hotel Reimbursement:** Hotel expenses are reimbursable for reasonable accommodation, covering room charges plus applicable taxes and fees.

Expenses that fall outside these categories or exceed the annual reimbursement limit may be considered for payment only with the approval of both the Finance Committee and the Detachment Executive Committee.

SECTION 5. Limited expenses for the National Convention are paid by the Detachment of Texas for the Incoming Commander, the Outgoing Commander, the National Executive Committeeman, and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman. The table below describes what is and isn't paid. Anything not listed is not paid. Payments will be reduced by any amount paid by the National Sons of the American Legion.

National Convention Expenses

Expense	Paid?
Transportation*	Yes
Mileage from home to airport	Yes, if flying
Up to 2 checked bags	Yes, if flying
Transportation from airport to hotel	Yes, if flying

Hotel**	Yes
Parking	No
Per Diems	No
Travel Insurance	No
Travel Agent or Booking Fees	No
Seat Upgrades	No
Meals	No

* Airfare will be coach class booked three weeks in advance. If driving, reimbursement will be at the rate and limits established by the National Sons of the American Legion for travel to the NEC. The reimbursement for driving will not exceed the cost of coach airfare and is limited to one payment per vehicle.

** Hotel will be for three days at the hotel assigned to the Texas delegation at the Legion block rate plus applicable taxes.

SECTION 6. Expenses for the National Executive Committee Meeting are covered by the National Sons of the American Legion for the National Executive Committeeman. If the National Executive Committeeman is unable to attend, the National Sons of the American Legion will cover expenses for the Alternate National Executive Committeeman. The Detachment of Texas will cover expenses for the current Detachment Commander and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman unless the Alternate is filling in for the National Executive Committeeman. The table below outlines what expenses are covered and what are not. Any expenses not listed will not be reimbursed. Payments will be adjusted based on any amount covered by the National Sons of the American Legion.

National Executive Committee Meeting Expenses

Expense	Paid?
Transportation*	Yes
Mileage from home to airport	Yes, if flying
Up to 2 checked bags	Yes, if flying
Transportation from airport to hotel	Yes, if flying
Hotel	No
Parking	No
Per Diems**	Yes

Travel Insurance	No
Travel Agent or Booking Fees	No
Seat Upgrades	No
Meals	No

*** Airfare will be coach class booked three weeks in advance. If driving, reimbursement will be at the rate and limits established by the National Sons of the American Legion for travel to the NEC. The reimbursement for driving will not exceed the cost of coach airfare and is limited to one payment per vehicle.**

**** Per Diem will be the same as the amount and days paid by the National Sons of the American Legion to the National Executive Committeeman.**