

FALL DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE MEETING AUSTIN, TX---SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2026

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by Commander Parnell. 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 4 Commander Browning (E), Sgt-At-Arms Gattis and Finance Officer Alva (E). All Chairmen were present except for VE & E Kleepsies (E). Districts present were 1C, 2C, 3C, 4, 5C, 6C, 7C, 9C, 10C, 11C, 12C, 13C, 14C, 15C, 16C, 21 and 22C. Squadrons present were 12, 50, 89C, 92C, 93, 120C, 122C, 133C, 172, 179, 198C, 208, 231, 245, 283, 297C, 319C, 321C, 364, 426C, 430C, 447, 453, 472, 511, 522, 554, 573C, 597C, 618C, 624C, 654 and 817C. A quorum was established. Following roll call, Commander Parnell asked for the reading of the minutes. Motion was made by Tim Webb, 2nd by Eddy Seegers to waive the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

After some opening remarks by NEC Kuehner, Commander Parnell recessed the meeting for Committee meetings. Meeting recessed at 9:45 AM

Meeting was called back into session at 10:20 AM by 1st Division Commander Tim Webb

NEC---Commander Parnell then asked NEC Kuehner to come forward to give his report. He reported on the Past National Convention held in Louisville, KY 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---Wolf Laughing 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. Tim Webb made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Jon Kingston. Motion passed.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS---Joseph Thomas came forward to give the report. He reported on the Historian Garcia is working on a 25-26 Scrapbook. He also asked that all Officers and Chairmen get their pictures on the website. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes. JT Thomas made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Jerry Renard, Motion passed,

LEGISLATIVE---Chairman Jessie Richardson 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, Jerry Renard made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Ken Dorsett. 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 Parnell

VE & E---Chairman Kleepsies was not present to give the report. PDC Kingston 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 Committee's projects and bringing them to the Detachment A complete report is attached to these minutes. Bill Kuehner then made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Tom Arista. Motion passed.

AMERICANISM—Chairman Kevin Baker 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 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 brought up that this is National Buddy Check's week JT Thomas made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Jean Maxwell. 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 spoke of an upcoming cock-off to raise funds for Camp Hope on November 7th. He gave a short report of PDC Fowler's ASYMCA projects at Fort Hood. PDC Seeger then approached with information on The Va projects currently ongoing. Finally, PDC Dorsett came forward to report on the ASYMCA programs for Fort Bliss in El Paso. Chairman Maxwell also brought comments from the National Commander Thom Skelly. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Max Maxwell made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Jerry Renard. Motion passed

CHILDREN & YOUTH—Chairman Carriger and PDC Brad Pack gave the reports. The Committee established chairs of each separate program under C & Y. The Committee is still selling CWF items. He spoke about Different fundraisers they are doing for CWF, including a 250th anniversary bottle and the CAT program. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Motion made by JT Thomas to accept the report, 2nd by Kevin Baker. Motion passed.

MARKETING—Chairman Hartline came forward to give his report. All officers have received their shirts. He stated that there will be no cost increase starting next year. New Shirts and Hats are available for sell. A new 50+ year pin is for sale as well. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Gary Winters made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Tim Webb. Motion passed

Commander Parnell recessed the meeting at 11:45 AM for lunch, to be reconvened at 1:15 PM. Commander Parnell reconvened the meeting at 1:25 PM.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS/MEMBERSHIP—Chairman Elam came forward to give the report. He asked that Division and District reach out to their Squadrons about getting them all certified. He also stated that new goals have been established and will be coming out at the same time. He informed the body that the 100% ribbons for Membership are here, and everyone needs to pick up their ribbon this evening. He also gave the PUFL report. PDC Eddy Seagers made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Max Maxwell. Some discussion was brought up about certification of officers. Motion passed.

FINANCE—Finance Chairman Webb gave the report. He talked about various items concerning the Finance Committee. A complete report is attached to these minutes. The budget for the 2026-

2027 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. A complete report is attached to these minutes. Motion was made by Tim Webb to accept the report as read, 2nd by JT Thomas. Motion passed. It was also stated that the report be put aside for audit.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CAMPAIGN FUND—Ray Hartline came forward to give the report. He reported to the body on the account and where we stand. He stated that there is \$27,013.00 still in the account. These funds will be used for the homecoming dinner, and remaining funds will be decided on at a later date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS—Adjutant Winkelmann spoke to the body concerning the updates and changes to our newly updated C & BL. There was more discussion concerning Squadron's C & BL. There was also some discussion concerning the account that was set up for National Candidate expense. There was also a question brought up concerning expenditure for Juan Torres year as his year as candidate for NVC. Motion made by JT Thomas to instruct Liaison Laughing to question the campaign manager for leftover expenses. Second by Milton Chatham. Motion passed.

Past Department President Christine Trahan came forward to bring greetings and also to thank the Detachment for everything they do for the Veterans and our children. She also praised our work with the AS YMCA Project we support.

Meeting was recessed at 2:15 PM until 9:00 Sunday morning,

NEW BUSINESS—None

GOOD OF THE SAL—Various announcements were announced including various events, fund raisers and cook-offs throughout the Detachment. There was a question brought up on who can attend the DEC, Mid-Winter Conference and the Detachment Convention. All paid up to date members are allowed and encouraged to attend.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Commander Parnell called the meeting back into session at 9:00 AM. Following hand salute to the colors, prayer, pledge and the preamble, Commander Alva called the meeting to order. The roll call was then asked for. All the officers were present except for 4th Division Commander Browning (E), Sgt-At-Arms Gattis and Finance Officer Alva (E). All chairmen were present except for VE & E Chairman Kleepsies (E). Districts present were 1C, 2C, 3C, 4, 5C, 6C, 7C, 8, 9C, 10C, 11C, 12C, 13C, 14C, 15C 16C, 21 and 22C. Squadrons present were 36C, 43C, 50, 89C, 163C, 172, 179, 198C, 208C, 231, 245, 283, 297, 319, 321C, 364C, 447, 453C, 516, 522, 554, 573C, 586, 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.

Department Commander Danny Muth came forward to bring greetings to the body. He spoke on all the great accomplishments that the Detachment does for the state of Texas. He then thanked the Detachment for their continued service.

Adjutant Winkelmann gave the body his notes and well wishes for this Fall meeting. There were

various announcements presented to the floor. Also, he reminded the body on the upcoming Mid-Winter Conference.

Being no further business, Commander Parnell asked Chaplain Henderson for the benediction. Following the benediction, Commander Parnell called for the hand salute to the colors and retirement of the colors. The meeting was then adjourned at 9:50 AM

Commander's report
Fall D.E.C. 2026
9/26/2026

My first official duty after being elected to this office was to go to League City and participate in the American Legion baseball tournament as an ambassador from The Sons of The American Legion. The night before the tournament started, I went to The American Legion Post 554 in League City and met up with the Department Commander and the Department President. We were escorted to our designated seats and introduced to everyone present, both players and members. I was called upon to start the speeches and I wadded up my prepared speech and instead gave a speech meant to bring a sense of fair play and sportsmanship to the players and a sense of community and Americanism to all. The next morning we went to the baseball field and I went out to the pitchers mound and threw what turned out to be a nasty curveball. It definitely had the distance to make it past homebase, but I wasn't about to try another pitch in fear of actually hurting someone. The first game lasted 4 hours and ended by 1 point. I was impressed by the level of sportsmanship and fair play these teams showed.

My next trip was to Killeen/Harker Heights to help Squadron 573 at the Armed Forces YMCA with passing out back to school backpacks and lunch boxes. After we finished passing out the backpacks we were given a tour of the facility and shown, among other things, their food pantry as well as where the turkey meals were passed out. I must admit that I was impressed with what they do and how appreciative they truly are with everything that we do to help out.

Then, I went to the National Convention in Louisville, Ky. I bought the most dreadful cowboy hat I could find at DFW airport. It was painted red white and blue with 1 white star on the front that screamed TEXAS! After checking into the hotel, I received a call to pick up all of the Sons registration packets so that I could take care of that starting the next morning and Adjutant West would have one less headache to worry about. Arriving at the convention center the next morning I found out that the Commander's training that has been conducted at the National convention has been moved to the spring. This gave me more time to network with other States, enjoy the sights of Louisville, and just have a better convention experience. A side note about Louisville, Ky. For those unfamiliar, it is the Bourbon capital of the U.S. there are tasting bars all over the main area around the convention center.

I was asked to represent us at a presentation of Quilts of Valor this past Friday. it is a national group of quilters who present quilts to Veterans and Active duty personnel who suffer from PTSD. I had a minor role in this, but these Veterans perked up big time when I gave them, and their kids, my Commander's pin. Every one of them put that pin on and were talking to each other about how there was someone from the State level who had actually shown up for this presentation. There were only 6 recipients of these quilts, I did not have to speak, and we fed them afterwards.