



**16th District Department of Virginia
The American Legion
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**Web: www.16dvalegion.org
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TO: 16th District Commander
FROM: 16th District Adjutant
DATE: June 2, 2019
SUBJ: 2019 District Convention Minutes

The 2019 District Convention was held on June 1, 2019 at Woodbridge Post 364.

- Opening: The Joint Session was called to order by Vice Commander John Carty.
- Invocation: The invocation was provided by District Chaplain Charles King.
- Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by District Vice Commander Matt Matyuf.
- POW/MIA: The POW/MIA Chair was draped by District Sergeant-At-Arms Roger Boyce.
- Preamble: The Legion Preamble was led by Vice Commander John Carty.
- Leader Entry: District Commander Sonnie Dickerson and District President Alice Brady were escorted to the head table by District Sergeant-At-Arms Roger Boyce.
- Post Welcome: Post Commander Thom Karlson welcomed the conference attendees. The 16th District Reply was given by Vice Commander Matt Matyuf.
- Guests Intro: Department of Virginia Commander Thomas Queck and Department Sons Commander Jeff Lee were introduced.
- Legionnaires: Distinguished legionnaires (Past District/Department Commanders). Present were:

Name	Position(s)
George Lussier	District Commander – 1996, Department Commander – 2003
Bob Brady	District Commander – 2002
Charles King	District Commander – 2009
David Stein	District Commander – 2010, Department Commander – 2017
Thom Karlson	District Commander – 2011
Robert Yowell	District Commander – 2015
John Ward	District Commander – 2016
Mark Meier	District Commander – 2018

Auxiliary: District President Alice Brady provided the welcoming remarks for the 16th District Auxiliary. Highlighted that the 16th District Auxiliary was in first place until this past week when they were edged out buy a very slim margin. She congratulated the Auxiliary for doing such a fine job on membership this year.

- Guest: Commander Queck was again introduced to provide remarks to the Joint Session. Commander Queck thanked us for the terrific lunch and acknowledged that we had a lot of work to take care of so he would keep his comments brief. He congratulated the 16th District for being in first place for membership and for both the Legion and Auxiliary for having the highest accomplishments for the year.
- General: There were no general announcements provided for the Joint Session.
- Benediction: The benediction for the Joint Session was provided by Auxiliary Chaplain Paula Mullins.
- Conclusion: The Joint Session was adjourned by Commander Dickerson.

The 16th District 2019 Convention was reconvened after the intermission and was called to order by Commander Dickerson. For the purpose of the District Convention John Hess was appointed as Resolutions Committee Chair and John Ward was appointed as the Credentials Committee Chair. District Adjutant Ziggy Levison read the rules of the Convention.

A roll call of officers was completed:

District Position	Name (Post)	Status
Commander	Sonnie Dickerson (330)	Present
1 st Vice	John Carty (29)	Present
2 nd Vice	Matt Matyuf (150)	Present
3 rd Vice	Lizzie Fontaine (1836)	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms	Roger Boyce (364)	Present
Chaplain	Charles King (293)	Present
Adjutant	Ziggy Levison (247)	Present
Finance Officer	Thom Karlson (364)	Present
Historian	Ed Thompson (290)	Present
Judge Advocate	Mark Meier (10)	Present
Service Officer	Steve Botello (10)	Present
Americanism	Jim Brock (10)	Present
Athletic	James Grenier	Excused
American Legion Riders	Matt Matyuf	Present
Blood Donor	Ziggy Levison (247)	Present
Boys State	Robert Yowell (247)	Present
Children & Youth	Thom Karlson (364)	Present
Constitution & Bylaws	John Hess (290)	Present
Credentials	John Ward (34)	Present
Foreign Relations	Charles King (293)	Present
JROTC Drill	Danny Goolsby	Excused
Junior Law Cadet	Mike Robinson ()	Excused
Junior Shooting Sports	Claude Davenport (72)	Excused
Legislative	George Lussier (28)	Present
Media & Comm	Ziggy Levison (247)	Present
Membership	John Carty (29)	Present
National Security	Danny Goolsby (330)	Excused
New Posts	Bob Brady (247)	Present
Nominating Committee	John Ward (24)	Present
Oratorical	Terri Puckett (34)	Present
Rehabilitation (VA&R & VAVS)	Thom Karlson (364)	Present
Resolutions	John Hess (290)	Present
Sons of the American Legion	John Ward (34)	Present

Posts attendance and representation were:

Post	Status	Representative
10	Present	Mark Stein
28	Present	Ray Bennett
34	Present	John Ward
72	Present	John Kemper
114	Absent	
150	Present	Matt Matyuf
247	Present	Joanne Smoot
290	Present	Dave Stein
293	Present	Charles King
295	Absent	
330	Present	Sonnie Dickerson
360	Absent	
364	Present	Thom Karlson
1799	Absent	
1836	Present	Don Zajic
2001	Absent	

Finance Officer Thom Karlson reported that the Finance Committee had met prior to the Convention. Every Post has paid their dues for the current year. The balance as of April is \$16534.00. A motion was made to approve the finance report subject to audit was made by John Ward. It was seconded by Brandy Fitzgerald.

The following Committee Chair reports were made:

Americanism – No Report

Athletic – Report submitted by e-mail, a summary report regarding Legion Baseball was made by Troy Blanchard.

American Legion Riders – Matt Matyuf provided a visual report with Powerpoint slides on the key aspects of the American Legion Riders program. He highlighted the areas of Service to Nation, Missing in America, Honor Flights, Rolling Thunder, Thank You Cards, Parades, some of the Good Times, and the Legion Events supported such as recruiting. He highlighted that the Riders have worked with the park services to clean memorials throughout the year including the Korean War Memorial. A written report was also submitted. Brandy Fitzgerald provided a self-penned American Legion Riders Song.

Blood Donor – Ziggy Levison provided a quick report that 2 blood drives had occurred this past quarter. No official reports have been submitted but at this time the public information is that Post 247 raised 19 pints. He also reminded Posts that they need to send their Blood Drive information to the Blood Drive Chair or Adjutant.

Boys State – Robert Yowell reported that there were still 17 empty seats on the bus as of June 1 and we needed to fill them up to keep the costs to the District as low as possible. The bus leaves Walmart in Haymarket at 7:00 AM on June 16th.

Children and Youth – No Report

Constitution and Bylaws – John Hess reported that the latest copy of the bylaws is dated June 9, 2018 and has been signed.

JROTC Drill – No Report.

Junior Shooting Sports – Report has been provided by email.

Legislative – George Lussier reported on the efforts to complete a Memorializing Resolution to recognize the Legion for 100 years of active service. Just as soon as he receives the completed resolution, he will get it distributed to all.

Media and Comm – Report submitted by e-mail. Ziggy quickly briefed that we are continuing our efforts for Media and Communications. Ziggy reminded posts to be careful when using images and reminded them of Department Policy to only use Public Domain material. There are several sites that will help create advertisement material but their legal disclaimers leave Posts at risk. There has been a report that one Post in the mid-west was hit with violating copyright.

National Security – No Report.

New Posts – No Report.

Oratorical – Terri Puckett reported that the Regional Oratorical will occur Feb 8, 2020 in the Winchester area. They are looking for someone to play host for the event.

Rehabilitation (VA&R & VAVS) – No Report.

Resolutions – No Report.

Sons of the American Legion – No Report.

Membership – Commander Dickerson reported that Joe Dudley could not be here but sent us a letter of congratulations for being in first place for the Department for membership and highlighted Vice Commander John Carty for his superior performance for membership excellence and the Gun Show efforts.

Historian – Ed Thompson advised that there had been some questions before about the highest levels ever reached for membership by the Legion. Records indicate that our membership peaked at 3.3 million right after World War 2. He briefed on the Post History Book contest and showed the example of the Post 290 History book.

Service Officer – Steve Botello briefed on the importance of the Service Officers in supporting the Veterans and family members. He highlighted that the need for help has never been higher. Starting this quarter there will be quarterly training in addition to the training provided by Department and National.

Old Business – There was no old business to be addressed.

New Business – Election of Officers.

The slate of officers was presented for election and there were no candidates presented from the floor. The following officers were elected by unanimous voice vote.

Sergeant-At-Arms – Rick Shultz
Chaplain – Robert Yowell
Finance Officer – Bob Brady
Vice Commander – Lizzy Fonatine
Vice Commander – Matt Matyuff
Vice Commander – Theresa Puckett
Commander – John Carty

Congratulations were given to the elected officers and the officers were sworn in by District Judge Advocate Mark Meier. He also presented the Past District Commander pin to Commander Dickerson and the District Commander Pin to Commander Elect John Carty.

Nomination and election for Delegates to the 2019 National Convention was completed. Named delegates are Troy Blanchard, Theresa Puckett, Ron Alstetter, and Charles King. 4 unnamed Honor Guard members will be selected by Dave Stein since they will be attending the Honor Guard competition. Dave Stein and George Lussier will serve as alternates to the Convention.

For the Good of the Legion – Judge Advocate Training will be provided for new Post and District Officers at 9:00 AM, Saturday, 29 June at Post 290. Officers of Posts are expected to attend but the training is open to ALL Legionnaires within the District. This may be combined with Social Media Legal Training. Post 290 will be providing Lunch for those in attendance.

Dave Stein made a motion that the District purchase 2 tickets for the Clint Bolt Revers Raffle. The tickets cost \$100.00 each. There were multiple second for the motion. Approval was made by voice vote with no stated objections or abstentions.

Dave Stein invited all in attendance to come to Post 290 at 5:30 PM to participate in their Officer Installation and Dinner.

Commander Elect John Carty reminded all of the Sep 6 Golf Tournament being put on by Leesburg Post 29.

Adjutant Ziggy Levison reminded all of the District Planning Session being held at Post 10 on July 28 at 2:00 PM. The District Planning Session is open to all Post Officers and Post Members.

Door prizes were won by Matt Matyuf who selected to receive an American Legion Centennial Coin and Joanne Smoot who received an American Legion portfolio.

The closing benediction was given by Chaplain Charles King. The convention was then closed by Commander Sonnie Dickerson.

