

**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
SECOND DIVISION 2024 – 2025 CONVENTION
3430 W CARDINAL DRIVE
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77705**

MAY 10, 2025

At 0900 hours the meeting was opened in the usual manner by Cheryl Williams, Convention Chairwoman. She then introduced Department Vice Commander, Second Division Clifton Guillory.

Division Adjutant Lynn Sparks then read the Convention Call (Attch. #1) and Roll Call (Attch. #2). A quorum was established. There were 33 Posts present.

Steve Kim moved to dispense with the reading of the 2024 minutes, seconded by Cheryl Williams. No discussion. Motion carried.

C. W. “Butch” Sparks gave the first reading of credentials (Attch. #3).

Department Commander Tom Marty was introduced. He reported that Texas membership is currently in 3rd place at National.

Steve Watkins, Division 2 Judge Advocate read the 2 resolutions submitted to change the Constitution and By-Laws (C&BL). Both were concerning District Rotation for the election of Department Vice Commander Division 2. The first one requested the rotation be in numeric order (2, 6, 7, 8, 11, 22) rather than the current order of 2, 7, 8, 6, 22, 11. The second one was to do away with the rotation. This matter will be voted on if 4 hours after 1340 hours this afternoon (Attch. #4 & Attch. #5).

Shirley Platt, Department Historian gave an update on the History Book Competition for this year (Attch. #6).

OFFICER REPORTS

Adjutant – Lynn Sparks gave her report (Attch. #7).

Chaplain – Gerald P. Semien gave his report (Attch. #8).

Finance Officer – Dwight Rumph gave his report (Attch. #9).

Hubmaster/ Public Relations – Roxanne Moss gave both reports (Attch. #10).

Webmaster/Oratorical Chair – Harry Woodstrom gave both reports (Attch. #11).

DISTRICT COMMANDER'S REPORTS

2nd District – Cheryl Williams gave her report (Attch. #12).
6th District – Russ Foster gave his report (Attch. #13).
8th District – Irene Infante gave her report (Attch. #14).
11th District – Cyndi Miller gave her report (Attch. #15).
22nd District – Report given by Butch Sparks, District Adjutant (Attch. #16).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism – James Andrews gave an oral report.
Baseball – Gregory Monette – absent. Sent report (Attch. #17).
Boys State – Jimmy Mitchell – (Attch. #18).
Children & Youth – Kimberly Biggerstaff – (Attch. #19).
Community Service – Sherry Thomas – (Attch. #20).
Junior Shooting – Sandy Mason – (Attch. #21).
Legion Riders – Brad Halliday -Absent
Legislative – Joe Pennington – Absent
Membership – Butch Sparks – (Attch. #22).
National Security – Hector Hernandez – gave oral report.
Registration – Sherry Thomas – (Attch. #23).
S.A.L. Advisor – Milton Chatham -Absent sent report (Attch #24).
School Award – Dale Hutchcraft – (Attch. #25).
Scouting – Stephanie Otto gave an oral report.
Training – Butch Sparks – (Attch. #26).

Break for lunch, Memorial Service and Joint Session.

At 1300 hours the Memorial Service was conducted by the Division Chaplain Gerald P. Semien and Division S.A.L. Chaplain Jeff Hallinan.

At 1325 hours the Joint Session was called to order in the usual manner.

Vice Commander Guillory introduced Division S.A.L. Commander Joseph Thomas who introduced his officers and VIPs.

Cheryl Williams introduced the guest speaker Reverend Kevin Williams.

Division S.A.L. Chaplain gave the closing prayer.

Immediately the afternoon session began.

Department Commander Tom Marty installed 8th District Commander Irene Infante.

PDC Jeff Perkins gave an update on his upcoming bicycle trip to National Convention in Tampa.

Roll Call was taken and reports were resumed (Attch. #2).

Unclaimed Remains – Don Hutchcraft gave an oral report.

VA&R – Cedric Patterson - (Attch. #27).

Women Veterans – Absent.

Butch Sparks gave the final report of credentials (Attch. #3).

Vice Commander Guillory gave his report (Attch. #28).

Joseph Thomas gave the report on the Verne “Red” Berridge Memorial Scouting Fund (Attch. #29).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Steve Watkins discussed the two resolutions again. Stephanie Otto moved to accept the new rotation resolution (Attch. #4). Steve Kim made the following amendment:

“No individual delegate is OBLIGATED to vote as a block with their post or district, but is entitled to vote their conscience.” Under much discussion, the amendment passed, the motion failed.

Joseph Thomas moved to accept the resolution to end rotation (Attch. #5). Seconded by Cheryl Williams. Steve Kim moved to amend the motion as stated above. Seconded by David Day. Amendment passed. Motion passed.

CANDIDATE SPEECHES

The following candidates spoke:

Robin York – Dept. Historian

Jeanett Merritt – Dept. Vice Commander – Division 2

Cyndi Miller - Dept. Vice Commander – Division 2

Steve Kim - Dept. Vice Commander – Division 2
Rich Huntley – Dept. Commander

Adjutant Sparks read the following Resolutions for information only:

Shirley Platt – Dept. Historian (Attch. #30).
Steve Kim – Dept. Vice Commander – Division 2 (Attch. #31).
Jeanette Merritt - Dept. Vice Commander – Division 2 (Attch. #32).
Cyndi Miller - Dept. Vice Commander – Division 2 (Attch. #33).

Adjutant Sparks read the following Resolution for action:

Commendation of Host Post, Unit and Squadron (Attch. #34)

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Delegates to National Convention – Mute

Vice Cmdr. Guillory assigned Kim Biggerstaff, Sany Mason and Jimmy Mitchell to count the votes.

Election of Dept. Vice Commander – Division 2 (Attch. #35).

Dept. Vice Commander - Division 2 Elect Steve Kim said a few words.

GOOD OF THE LEGION

None

The meeting was closed in the usual manner.

Adjourned at 1610 hours.