

**VFW DISTRICT 20 MEETING 07 DEC 2019  
VFW POST 8555**

- 1. Call to Order: The meeting of Texas VFW District 20 was called to order by District Commander Rolando Webber, on 7 Dec 2019 at 0945 am.**

**Distinguished**

**Guests: Larry Velasquez - Past State Commander/ National JVC Candidate  
Richard Shawver - State Senior Vice Commander  
Norman Macey - State Junior Vice Commander  
Al Lowe - State Chaplain  
Robert Dickerson - Past National and State Chaplain  
Robert Martinez - State Inspector, Past D20 Commander  
John Shipley - Deputy State Inspector/Past D20 Commander  
Cris Vieyra - Past State Membership Chairman/ Past D20 CC  
Larry Sanders - Past State Chief of Staff/Past D20 Commander  
Carlos Mujica - Past D20 Commander  
Dan Medrano- Past State Judge Advocate/Past D20 CC  
Jose Duran - Past D20 Commander  
Tish McCullough - Past D20 Commander  
Lynn Toomer - Candidate for State JVC  
Jeff Clark - Candidate for State JVC**

- 2. Roll call of Officers: Commander Present; Senior Vice Commander Present; Junior Vice Commander Absent Excused; Chaplain Present; Judge Advocate Present; Surgeon Present; 1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee Present; 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee Absent Excused; 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee Absent Excused; Adjutant Present; Service Officer Present.**

- 3. Roll call of Posts: Total Attendance 69**

**Post 76 CC+2**

**Post 837 Adjutant**

**Post 1533 CC+4**

**Post 2059 SVC+1**

**Post 4676 CC+1**

**Post 4700**

**Post 4815 JVC+1**

**Post 4853 QM**

**Post 6012 CC+1**

**Post 7108 SVC+6**

**Post 8397 CC+1**

**Post 8541 SVC**

**Post 8555 CC+12**

**Post 8936 CC+5**

**Post 9174 CC+4**

**Post 9186 CC+6**

**Post 12041 CC+2**

**Post 12171 CC+1**

## **Post 6970 CC+2**

- 4. Reading of Minutes: Minutes of District 20 meeting provided to all District Officers and stand approved as written.**
- 5. Quartermaster Report by District Quartermaster Robert Maldonado financial reports provided to all District Officers and stand approved as written.**

**Books have been audited by District Trustees.**

### **6. Committee Reports:**

**Service Officer Report: District Service Officer Lee Rivas provided information and map concerning the closing of Valet parking at Audie Murphy VA Medical Center of 6 Dec 2019 thru January 2020. He also indicated that the main entrance will be closed with the Poly Trauma Center as the alternate. Shuttle service will be provided from all parking areas. He further stated that the Audie Murphy VA Medical Center will be designated as a Purple Heart facility. Leading this designation was our District Senior Vice Commander Armando Gonzales, a Purple Heart Recipient. He and the District Senior Vice Commander will meet with the VA Hospital Director about the Purple Heart designation and any other issues which are of concern. Comrade Rivas also presented the next President of the SA Veterans Day Parade Association Comrade Mike Mendez, a lifetime VFW member within our District.**

**Surgeon Report: District Surgeon Tish McCullough provided her new contact phone number. Comrade McCullough once again indicated that we should continue to practice how we present information pertaining to the Auxiliary and VFW.**

**Homeless Veterans: Comrade Gilbert Uriegas stated that \$200.00 was spent to purchase 100 gloves and bennies for the GI Forum which hoses about 100 homeless veterans. He also provided info that VFW Post 76 on 14 Dec 19 will be having a homeless veteran stand down in conjunction with Broken Warriors Angels, free food, medical and mental assistance will be provided. District 20 Homeless program donated \$300.00 towards this event.**

- 7. VFW National Home remembrance conducted by District Chaplain Lee Arnold.**

## **8. Unfinished Business**

- A. Bingo paperwork: Comrade Adjutant Pat Clark will provide the completed documents for signatures in the coming week.**
- B. District Food Drive: District Commander Webber stated that the results will be forthcoming, today is the last day. Posts can continue to provide checks for support. He and District Chief of Staff Jose Duran visited the food bank and they clarified they are considered the Greater San Antonio Area Food Bank supporting 11 counties and over 500 organizations for contributions. All food earmarked for Veterans are given to those organizations that support veterans. At present they have 200,000 wanting food assistance.**

## **9. New Business:**

- A. Motion to approve previous expenditures of magnetic signs \$70.36 and Wreaths \$135.00 for SA Veterans Day at Alamo ceremony 9 Nov 2019. Previous approved electronically sent by District Commander to Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander and Quartermaster due to expediency by District Adjutant Clark. Seconded by PDC Medrano. Motion Carried.**
- B. Motion for approve \$400.00 donation for Mariachi Band from Harlandale High School to play during lunch at District picnic by District Adjutant Pat Clark. Seconded by PDC Vieyra. Motion Carried.**

## **10. Good of the Order**

**State Rep: State Junior Vice Commander, Norman Macey provided greetings from State Commander Keith King. The Department has this year begun issuing General Orders which are available on the website. IRS 990's are due this month. Ensure posts complete their 20 community reports. State Commander King wants all to be aware of Sec 214 concerning fundraising any agreement with vendor must be approved by State Commander. National Home the Texas House contribution is due end of the month. Mobile training being conducted has been successful. Membership is as always important for all Posts to pursue continuous Members. State Commander and Auxiliary President's homecoming in Bay City, Texas April 23-26, 2020. Lastly always remember the members are in charge of the post. He also congratulated the District on the 100%**

**participation for Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen.**

**Jeff Clark, Candidate for State JVC, 36-year VFW veteran, 22 year Navy veteran. Membership is essential to keep our members in our organization. Make decisions to keep members in the VFW. He would expand the present mobile training being conducted to more areas of the state to include the Valley, Central Texas etc area. He will continue the effort to fight for Texas Vets where the Hazelwood Act is concerned and all other areas.**

**Lynn Toomer, Candidate for State JVC, honored to be in District 20. Congratulated Commander Ruben Garcia VFW Post 8936 for the work done in Fredericksburg, Texas in support of the Desert Storm Memorial where over \$300,000 was generated for the memorial. We need to keep the VFW great, the Post function is the most important. Keep your members involved. Recruiting and keeping new members by mentoring them. Mobile training continue to support.**

**Larry Velasquez, Candidate for National JVC, always a pleasure in District 20. Spoke on his campaign and the huge effort expanded. He also thanked several District members who have supported him during all of his campaigns. He spoke also on the vision of the VFW over the next five years and what we can be done to continue our great organization.**

**Robert Martinez, State Inspector, Campaign Manager for Larry Velasquez, Will be travelling to Washington, DC for the Legislative Conference to support legislation important to veterans and families. Thanked District 20 for the support of the campaign of our Past State Commander Larry Velasquez for National JVC. He also presented information of the extensive four-year effort and travel required to campaign for National JVC.**

**Comrade Raymond Silva, VFW Post 8555 provided a Pearl Harbor Day remembrance. VFW Post Commander 12041, Larry Sanders also mentioned Life Member USN Retired CPO Gilbert Myers a Pearl Harbor survivor from USS Utah. Comrade Myers was on the USS Detroit in Tokyo Bay on the day the Japanese Empire signed the Declaration of Surrender ending the Second World War**

**Al Lowe, Texas State Chaplain presented guidance and suggestions on how to conduct a Memorial Service IAW VFW Ritual procedure.**

- Post 76** 9 Dec19, Bexar County Clerk's office will provide assistance to Veterans, DD 214's recorded etc.
- Post 837** No
- Post 1533** Proceeds of \$10,000 from Annual Golf Tournament presented to the Homeless Program. Also thanked all who supported the golf tournament. Trophy's will be presented to all supporters
- Post 2059** Support Larry Velasquez buy tickets
- Post 4676** Vote for Joe Ramon, Candidate for District JVC
- Post 4700** Absent
- Post 4815** No
- Post 4853** Toy Drive supporting 85 families and 193 children. Toys for Tots
- Post 6012** No
- Post 6970** No
- Post 7108** Turkey Shoot great success \$3,000, 50 Turkeys and 5 hams
- Post 8397** Vietnam Commemorative Ceremony along with Post 76
- Post 8541** World War 2 veteran 100-year-old birthday today at Post
- Post 8555** No
- Post 8936** Gun Raffle Tickets for Desert Storm Memorial \$20.00  
Today 2-5 Post Christmas Kids party  
14 Dec Post Adult Christmas party
- Post 9174** Working on new building
- Post 9186** 14 Dec Wreaths Across America ceremony for all veterans not  
not buried in Fort Sam Houston  
13 Dec Annual Christmas Party 8-11  
19 Police Auction

**Post 12041 Lytle Annual Hayride 2000 people, Lightning contest post won  
50 Boxes to Troops in Afghanistan  
Motorcycle Unit 8 to Lytle Nursing Home for gifts and meal  
Blue Santa Lytle supporting 100 families and 450 children.**

**Post 12171 Purple Heart ceremony for Audie Murphy VA Medical center  
within the next 45-60 days.**

**Closing ceremonies performed by Comrades John Rodriguez and District  
Chaplain Lee Arnold.**

**John P. Clark  
Adjutant**

**Rolando Webber  
District Commander**

**District 20 Joint Session Meeting  
DEC 7, 2019  
VFW Post 8555**

- 1. Opening Ceremony: Joint meeting called to order by District Commander Rolando Webber. Salute to the Colors rendered by Comrade John Rodriguez and Prayer given by Comrade Lee Arnold.**
  
- 2. Guests: Larry Velasquez- Past State Commander, National JVC Candidate  
Richard Shawver- Texas State Senior Vice Commander  
Norman Macey- Texas State Junior Vice Commander  
Robert Dickinson- Past National and State Chaplain  
Robert Martinez- State Inspector, Past D20 CC  
John Shipley- Deputy State Inspector, Past D20 CC  
Jose Duran - Past D20 Commander  
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Larry Sanders - Past D20 Commander  
Carlos Mujica - Past D20 Commander  
Cris Vieyra - Past D20 Commander  
Dan Medrano - Past D20 Commander  
Lynn Toomer - Candidate for State JVC  
Jeff Clark – Candidate for State JVC**
  
- 3. Opening remarks given by District Commander Rolando Webber and District Auxiliary President Yolanda Chambers.**
  
- 4. Introduction of District 20 Officers and Auxiliary Officers.**
  
- 5. District Commander Rolando Webber thanked VFW Post 8555 Commander Marvin Roemer, members and auxiliary for hosting this meeting. He also indicated there is a lot to be done this year especially in our membership programs.**  
  
**District Auxiliary President Yolanda Chambers expressed her sincere to Post 8555 Commander Marvin Roemer and Auxiliary President Sally Ramirez for hosting this meeting.**
  
- 6. Texas State Junior Vice Commander Norman Macey stated greetings from the State Commander Keith King. He also thanked the Auxiliaries and Motorcycle Groups for their continued support of the VFW. He also on a personal basis thanked Past National and State Chaplain Robert**

**Dickinson and Past State Commander Larry Velasquez for their support and guidance during his VFW career.**

- 7. District Commander Rolando Webber acknowledged the presence of World War 2 Veteran Charter Member of Post 9186 and Past Chaplain US Army Veteran Ramon Padilla. He also stated the District Memorial and Awards ceremony will be coming soon and that all Posts and Auxiliaries should make contact with District Chaplains Lee Arnold and Gladys Portalatin to insure all our deceased members are recognized.**
  
- 8. District Chief of Staff, Jose Duran stated for the first time in 5 years all Posts and Auxilliaries in the District participated in the VOD, PP and Teachers Awards. He also thanked his wife District Auxiliary Chairman for her support. Our winners are the following:**

**Patriots Pen:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Mari Angel Castenada VFW Post 76**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Maren Shaffer VFW Post 1533**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Samuel Hansen VFW Post 837**

**Voice of Democracy:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cheyenne Storms VFW Post 4676**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Marissa Cook VFW Post 8555**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hailey Soupiset VFW Post 2059**

**Teachers Awards:**

- Elementary Jose Gonzalez VFW Post 7108**
- Middle School Tracy Thomas VFW Post 8541**
- High School Cristina Perales VFW Post 8541**

- 9. Officer of the Day, Comrade John Rodriguez also honored Post 9186 Charter Member and World War II veteran Ramon Padilla in attendance at this meeting. He also indicated his war history and the fact that the future Pope Benedict was one of the Polish POWS that was released as part of his duties during the war. Comrade Padilla continues his dedication to veterans by volunteering at Audie Murphy VA Medical Center.**
  
- 10. Closing ceremonies salute to the Colors by Comrade John Rodriguez and closing prayer by Auxiliary Chaplain Gladys Portalatin.**