

**District 20 Joint Session Meeting
AUG 24, 2019
VFW Post 9186**

- 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: John Shipley- Deputy State Inspector- Past D20 Commander
Ed Torres- Past State Commander-Past D20 Commander
Robert Dickinson, Past National Chaplain
Jose Duran-Past D20 Commander
Tish McCullough Past D20 Commander
Tony Vasquez Past D20 Commander
Larry Sanders Past D20 Commander
Carlos Mujica Past D20 Commander
Clarence Soignet Past D20 Commander
Dan Medrano Past D20 Commander
Karen Kaylor Junior Vice President, State Auxiliary**

- 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 9186 Commander, members and auxiliary for hosting this meeting**

District Auxiliary President Yolanda Chambers expressed her sincere Thanks for the good year. She stated that it was made easy with all of the support

- 6. Deputy State Inspector/ Past D20 Commander John Shipley indicated it was great to be back in D20. Provided greetings from the State Commander Keith King. Thanked D20 for the hard work in making D20 number one in its District**

- 7. District Commander Rolando Webber presented Esther Garcia, President of the 20th US Military Veterans Parade on 9 Nov 2019. She indicated that there will no fee for veterans to participate. VFW will be in the A section this year and American Legion will be in B section. Hopefully many VFW's**

will participate. Looking for Honorary Grand Marshalls. A veterans festival will be conducted at Milo Park from 10am-5:30pm.

- 8. Roger Flores, Fiesta Commission Grand Secretary of the Membership Committee consider becoming a member of the Commission. Provided the website for the Fiesta and how to get involved. Thanked all for their service to the Nation.**
- 9. Karen Kaylor, Junior Vice President, State Auxiliary thanked all for being invited to D20. Thanked all for their service.**
- 10. Yolando Chambers, President, D20 Auxiliary thanked Post Commander 9186 Nathan Zuniga for hosting this meeting. Thanked Karen Kaylor, Junior Vice President, State Auxiliary for attending. She also mentioned the following for attending Jane McCormack, Past National Council, Past State Auxiliary President and other past offices. Also thanked Erma Zales, President D18 Auxiliary, Post 7473 Auxiliary President. Also Diane Cisneros, Operation Southern Comfort an organization supporting our Warriors. Shae also stated that D20 is a powerhouse of volunteers and will complete its programs. To all the best of luck and a most productive and successful year. Aloha means Love, Peace and Compassion.**
- 11. District Commander Rolando Webber gave an award to Past District Commander John Shipley. Past District Commander thanked all of D20 and its Staff Officers. The following posts were also presented awards from National.

1533,6970,7108,8397, 8541,9174,12171,12041**
- 12. District Chief of Staff, Jose Duran stated that the turn in date for the turn in of VOD, PP, Teachers Awards will be 16 Nov 2019 at Post 7108. All schools are open to all Posts.**
- 13. Officer of the Day, John Rodriquez had veterans of each service stand and recognized by the date they were formed. He also honored a Post 9186 Charter Member and World War II veteran Ramon Padilla in attendance at this meeting.**
- 14. District Commander Rolando Webber reminded all of the USS Cole ceremony at Fort Sam Houston on 12 Oct 2019. There two remaining for the 20 year D20 commitment.**
- 15. Past District Auxiliary President, Belinda Torres presented information about the 100th Anniversary of Texas VFW and the Buddy Poppy poster where the funds will go the National Home for Children. The cost is \$5.00.**

All making a purchase will be recognized at the State Midwinter Conference and Convention.

16. Closing ceremonies salute to the Colors by Comrade John Rodriguez and closing prayer by Auxiliary Chaplain Gladys Portalatin.

**VFW DISTRICT 20 MEETING 24 AUG 2019
VFW POST 9186**

- 1. Call to Order: The meeting of Texas VFW District 20 was called to order by District Commander Rolando Webber, on 24 Aug 2019 at 1020 am.**

Distinguished

**Guests: John Shipley- Deputy State Inspector/Past District Commander
Robert Dickerson- Past National Chaplain
Ed Torres- Past State Commander/Past District Commander
Cris Vieyra- Past District CC
Larry Sanders- Past State Chief of Staff/Past District Commander
Carlos Mujica- Past District Commander
Dan Medrano- Past State Judge Advocate/Past District CC
Jose Duran-Past District Commander
Tony Vasquez- Past District Commander
Clarence Soignet- Past District Commander
Tish McCullough- Past District Commander**

- 2. Roll call of Officers: Commander Present; Senior Vice Commander Present; Junior Vice Commander Present; Chaplain Present; Judge Advocate Present; Surgeon Present; 1st Year Trustee Present; 2nd Year Trustee Present; 3rd Year Trustee; Adjutant Present; Service Officer Present.**
- 3. Roll call of Posts: Total Attendance 85**

Post 76 CC+2	Post 7108 SVC+6
Post 837 SVC+3	Post 8397 CC+1
Post 1533 CC+5	Post 8541 CC+8
Post 2059 SVC+1	Post 8555 CC+7
Post 4676 CC+1	Post 8936 CC
Post 4700 CC+6	Post 9174 CC+6
Post 4815 CC+1	Post 9186 CC+18
Post 4853	Post 12041 CC+5
Post 6012 CC+1	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. Motion to accept as written PDC Tish McCullough. Seconded by Comrade Carlos Vela. Motion carried.**

5. Quartermaster Report by District Quartermaster Robert Maldonado.

Books have been audited by District Trustees.

General Fund: -----

V Sweeps: -----

Receipts: -----

Expenditures: -----

Total Balance: -----

6. Committee Reports:

VOD, PP and TA Awards: Chief of Staff Jose Duran

Service Officer Report: District Service Officer Lee Rivas stated that on 21 Aug 2019 President Trump signed an Executive Order authorizing a total of 50,000, 100 % Total and Permanent Disabled Veterans complete payoff of their student loans. At present only approximately 20,000 of the eligible veterans have applied for this benefit.

Webmaster: District Trustee Robert Bennett thanked the posts who are submitting info to be added to District website and Facebook page. He also provided his email address to insure all posts have for submissions.

Surgeon Report: District Surgeon Tish McCullough stated it is great to be back in D20 and also to see familiar and new faces which means we are growing. Texas has the most women veterans in the nation 186,000. A majority of which are probably combat veterans eligible for VFW membership. When recruiting always assume that the male veteran being spoken to his wife may be also be a combat veteran eligible to recruit. The Auxiliary in no longer the Ladies Auxiliary. A good practice to say only the VFW and the Auxiliary no gender involved. She is the Director Mental Health Department, Texas Veterans Commission and will focus on the Mental Health aspect in the District. She challenged all present to do something to help in suicide prevention by having a program at each post. There is free training a 1 ½ hour class provided by Texas Veterans Commission that can be provided by contacting the District Surgeon. She also stated that if you are not enrolled in the VA health program then it is important to do so. If you are not enrolled, then you cannot complain about their programs. The Texas Veterans Commission offers other programs that claims assistance such as Education, Employment, Woman Vet Program, Health Care Advocacy, Veterans Mental Health.

Motorcycle Group Liaison: Comrade John Maines provided info on the State Commander Ride first one in three years on 21 Sep 2019. All riders will meet at Post 7108 and ride to Engleside, Rockport and Corpus Christi. Post 7108 Motorcycle Group will present a \$1,000 check to each Post Rockport and Corpus Christi to assist them in their rebuilding after the hurricane. He also stated that Post 7108 MG was contacted by the principal of James Madison HS and requested assistance. The 7108 MG provided 3 new sewing machines and a check for supplies for the Home Economics class.

Homeless Veterans: Comrade Gilbert Uriegas state that he will be making contact with the Christian Assistance Ministries to ascertain what can be done together to assist Homeless Veterans.

Picnic Report: Comrade Carlos Vela stated that all Commanders should ensure that their emails are provided to him as all updates for the picnic will be done by email. Commache Park #2 has been confirmed in writing. Thanked Comrade Gilbert Cadena for working on the donation letter. Mariachi group during meal a family atmosphere.

7. VFW National Home remembrance conducted by District Chaplain Lee Arnold. Chaplain Arnold also stated that the wife of Comrade Marvin Roemer, Commander Post 8555 has been taken to the hospital.

8. Unfinished Business:

A. Bingo paperwork: Comrade Adjutant Pat Clark will complete with assistance of Chief of Staff Jose Duran.

B. Post Membership Recognition: District Adjutant Pat Clark clarified an approved motion from the District Meeting 23 Feb 2019 pertaining to the \$200.00 awards to posts making All-State and All-American. A review of the recorded minutes made it clear that the \$200.00 will be presented to all posts making All-State and All-American. District Quartermaster Robert Maldonado will provide the checks to the appropriate posts.

9. New Business:

A. Motion to increase the District 20 meeting registration fee from \$2.00 to \$3.00 by PDC Clarence Soignet. Seconded by PDC Ed Torres. Motion Carried.

- B. Motion for D20 to purchase 10 raffle tickets in support of Past State Commander Larry Velasquez for National JVC at cost of \$1,000.00 by District Adjutant Pat Clark. Seconded by District Quartermaster Robert Maldonado. Motion Carried.**
- C. Motion to have District 20 Posts to voluntarily participate in the Humana Food Drive to include monetary donations and/or food barrels to start on 11 Nov 2019 with no end date made by Chief of Staff Jose Duran. Seconded by PDC Clarence Soignet. Discussion followed. Motion Carried.**
- D. Post Inspections: District Commander Rolando Webber stated that the listings provided to all Post Commanders. If your Post is ready to be inspected contact your inspector and set up a date for completion.**
- E. Weekly Stats: Post Commanders need to pay attention to the weekly status sheets compiled by the State VFW and review each week. Ensure that all of your VPR's and other pertinent info is accurate to ensure the goal of making All-State and All-American.**
- F. San Antonio Veterans Parade: PDC Tony Vasquez provide information of the 9 Nov 2019 parade. The motto for this parade is "Veterans and Community United". He stated that enclosed floats need to be decorated and meet certain safety criteria. There is a possibility of safety inspections by the San Antonio Fire Department. The deadline for entry in the parade is Tuesday 15 Oct 2019. All the VFW's will be in Sec A leading the parade. There will be a meeting on 3 Nov 2019 for all parade entrants where the parade order and position numbers will be provided.**
- G. Motion to purchase \$500.00 for Wreaths Across America for Fort Sam Houston Nation Cemetery in 14 Dec 2019 made by District Adjutant Pat Clark. Seconded by Comrade Gilbert Cadena. Motion Carried.**
- H. Motion to purchase a District 20 National Home Brick for \$100.00 made by District Adjutant Pat Clark. Seconded by PDC Ed Torres. Motion Carried.**

- I. Motion for District 20 to sponsor a hole in Post 1533 Annual Golf Tournament made by District Adjutant Pat Clark. Seconded by PDC Ed Torres. Motion Carried.**
- J. Motion to donate \$500.00 to the San Antonio Veterans Parade Association made by District Adjutant Pat Clark. Seconded by District Service Officer Lee Rivas. Motion carried.**
- K. District Judge Advocate Dan Medrano provided clarification on the cost of membership to the Fiesta Commission and also the perks that come along with this membership. He also spoke on Standing Rules as indicated in Roberts Rules of Order 18-19 and page 265 place standing rules in the front of By-Laws.**

10. Good of the Order

State Rep: State Deputy Inspector John Shipley presented greetings from State Commander Keith King. He stated that the status sheets provide pertinent info on important items and when that are due. The new National By-Laws are not available, and Commanders need to be knowledgeable of the present By-Laws in effect. Ensure all Posts 990's is on the same schedule as State 1 Jul- 30 Jun, if no then a supplemental should be submitted to come in line with State. All Commanders should review the National Membership Program from the VFW CINC. Important dates to remember State Mid-Winter Conference 23-26 Jan 2020, State Commander Home-Coming Bay City, Texas 23-26 April 2020. Always enjoying being in District 20 as it is my District.

District Officer of the Day John Rodriguez provided information on the location of the USS Cole ceremony at Fort Sam Houston Cemetery which is to be held at the gravesite.

Post 76 No

Post 837 No

Post 1533 No

Post 2059 No

Post 4676 No

Post 4700 No

Post 4815 No

Post 6970 No

Post 7108 No

Post 8541 No

Post 8555 No

Post 9174 No

Post 9186 No

Post 12041 No

Post 12171 No

District Senior Vice Commander Armando Gonzales nominated Comrade Lee Rivas for District Junior Vice Commander for 2020-2021. Comrade Lee Rivas accepted.

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

**John P. Clark
Adjutant**

**Rolando Webber
District Commander**