

# Meeting Notes

## The American Legion

### District 5 – Fall Conference

#### Meeting Details

<b>Meeting Date</b>	December 3, 2011
<b>Meeting Time</b>	1000
<b>Meeting Location</b>	American Legion Post 23, Aurora, Colorado

#### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at [REDACTED] by District 5 Commander James (JR) Kent. Following the opening ceremonies, introductions were made of past and current District 5 officers in attendance. No formal roll call was taken as this was a joint meeting.

Commander Kent noted that, per the by-laws, District 5 officers must visit all 30 posts twice a year; at the time of the meeting, District 5 officers had visited 11 posts.

District 5 Auxiliary President Sandy Flint introduced past and current officers in attendance.

Department of Colorado Commander Jim Gillis introduced past and current Department officers in attendance.

Commander Gillis' motto for 2011-2012 is "United we Stand." It will take all of the entities working together to help veterans and support Legion youth programs. When recruiting, remember to recruit for all of the entities.

Commander Gillis has taken on the challenge of fundraising for the new Fischer House, and is requesting each post have one fundraiser where proceeds are donated to this cause. A video on the Fisher House was shown.

Detachment of Colorado SAL Commander Scott Garret introduced past and current officers in attendance and gave an update:

- 1) The existing Fisher House is going to be kept. There will be a total of 29 rooms once the new Fisher House is built. A total of \$1.5 million dollars is needed before the Foundation donates the rest. To date, approximately \$700,000 has been raised.
- 2) The Colorado SAL continues to lead the nation in donated funds for the Child Welfare Foundation.
- 3) There is a national campaign challenge for donations to support members running for national offices. Commander Garret thinks there will be a Colorado candidate in a few years.
- 4) Wheels for Disabled Veterans is refurbishing scooters and electric wheelchairs and donating them to veterans free of charge. If you know a veteran who needs one, or would like to donate either, the contact is Jack Levinson. There is an article in the November *Observer*.

Department of Colorado Auxiliary President Rhonda Larkowski introduced past and current officer in attendance.

The Auxiliary sponsors the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, where veterans treated at VA facilities compete in local creative arts competitions. Local competitions begin January 1. The Auxiliary is passing around Pringle cans to collect donations.

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Rick Baum gave a presentation on Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment (HBOT) for PTSD/TBI. A video on the topic was shown, and a question/answer period followed. The District 5 Riders will host their "Healing Heroes" inaugural poker run on May 19, starting at Post 178 in Lakewood, and ending at VFW 4171 in Golden.

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Intermission for lunch, hosted by Post 23

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Meeting was resumed by District 5 Commander Kent.

The Commander thanked Post 23 Commander Darryl Myers for hosting the meeting and the preparers/servers.

Post roll call:

- 28 members in attendance
- Post 103 in Littleton had the most members in attendance and was awarded a prize

Commander Kent's 2011-2012 fundraising campaign is the Make-A-Wish Foundation:

- Total collected to date - \$1,800
- Commander's personal goal was increased to \$3,000

District 5 roll call:

Commander, JR Kent

Senior Vice Commander, Dean Casey

Junior Vice Commander, Jimmy Walker

Finance Officer, Rick Cody

DEC, Ed Wearing

Chaplain, Norm Karpole

Sergeant-at-Arms,                     

Adjutant, Tammy Harden-Morris

A Motion was made by Ed Wearing to suspend any further District business until Department guests are called; motion seconded and unanimously carried.

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Department Commander Gillis reported on membership:

- There are a total of 20,165 Legion members in Colorado; as of November 30, 16,320 renewed (80.93%)
- The September, October and November goals were met
- We are at 75% for December
- As of November 30, the District is over 60%
- 19 posts are over 100%
- 20 post with 15+ members are over 100%

Please post the membership chart in your post to inspire members to renew.

There is also a post comparison per category (1, 2 and 3) graphic available. The graphic uses floating bubbles charting membership per category by percent, encouraging posts to "rise above the rest."

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Department Adjutant Pat Smith reported on the following:

- 1) The free AD&D from the Legionnaire's Insurance Trust was increased from \$1,000 to \$5,000; sign up, and you don't have to sign up for another seven years ([www.thelit.com](http://www.thelit.com)).
- 2) The Mid-Year Conference will be held at Post 32 in Longmont on January 27, 28 and 29.
- 3) There will be a Veterans Resource and Job Fair put on by the Colorado SBDC on January 26 at 2012 Plaza Conference Center. The fair is free and open to all veterans. Avue Technologies will present a free seminar on how to write a federal resume. If this event is successful, they will be held quarterly around the state. For more information, go to [www.coloradospdc.org](http://www.coloradospdc.org).
- 4) "In Honored Glory" posters (customizable with your Post's name) by famed Medal of Honor photographer Nick Del Calzo, can be purchased for \$125 from Department's website ([www.coloradolegion.org](http://www.coloradolegion.org)) (Department receives a percentage).
- 5) Nick's "Uncle Sam" portrait, taken in 1991, features member Don Chambers. As a part of Department's Americanism project, their goal is to put the creed on that photo, and put one in every school in Colorado situated close to the entrance. The portraits are expensive, so they are meeting with a representative of the Daniel's Fund to discuss a possible donation.
- 6) Two Mike Peterson CDs were given to Commander Kent. Commander Kent was charged with raising \$300 for each one and donating the proceeds to Department.
- 7) The National Commander and Mike Peterson will both be in Colorado on April 3, 4 and 5 to raise money for the Colorado Freedom Memorial.
- 8) It was requested that the American Legion Post at Tiny Town be refurbished by the National Commander's visit so he can perform a rededication ceremony; Evergreen Post 2001 is taking care of the renovations.

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Department Junior Vice Carol Kennedy reported on the following:

- 1) VA benefits booklet was made available.
  - 2) Why do we need members?
    - Numbers count!
    - We need to help veterans
  - 3) Packets were prepared for each post including information/ideas on how to generate interest:
    - Flag drawing
    - Veterans picnic/pizza party
    - Notify your local newspaper
    - Child ID day
    - Set up a recruiting table
    - Ask people to become members – toot your own horn
    - Make new members feel welcome
    - Design a tri-fold
    - Establish recruiting reward campaign
  - 4) Benefits of CAMPP:
    - Pay for 3, 5 or 10 years at one time to avoid dues increases and renewal notices from National
  - 5) Carol volunteered to give a presentation at your post on veteran's information.
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Department Junior Vice Richard Humphrey reported on the following:

- 1) Get your Police- and Fireman-of-the-Year nominations to Department by February 1.
- 2) Colorado Legion College:
  - Basic course will be held on May 19 in Aurora
  - An Advanced course will be held; details will be released at Mid-Year Conference
- 3) New member orientation or initiation details will be discussed at Mid-Year Conference.

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Department Deputy Adjutant Tom Bock reported on the following:

- 1) The new VA Hospital contract is signed; construction will start in January.
- 2) Posts should be signed up and using myLegion.org; 7% of total membership renewed online.
- 3) Membership is doing great:
  - DMS members are transferring and renewing
  - Is all it takes is a phone call and transfer form to transfer a member from DMS to your local post; sign the transfer form and put "verified by phone and the date" where the member would sign
  - Tom will email you a list of DMS members in your area if you request one
- 4) Department is receiving numerous requests for veteran assistance, and resources are expiring
  - Homeowners for the Homeless is a non-profit organization created to assist veterans
  - Individual posts can request funds by submitting a grant
  - Donations to the organization are not accepted – memberships with benefits are sold for \$38.95 per year
  - 95% of the funds go to veterans; \$5 goes directly to Department to fund veteran programs

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Len Peterson, President of the American Legion Baseball Program in Colorado, gave a program overview. Posts can sponsor in name only or donate online.

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Department Junior Vice Carol Kennedy gave an update on Boys State:

- 1) Boys completing their Junior year of high school and who are eligible to graduate the following year (and who want to go) are eligible to participate in Boys State
- 2) Boys State is one week long
- 3) Two elected senators go to Washington, DC
- 4) The first Colorado senator, Michael Herbert, was elected President of Boys Nation
- 5) Boys State needs financial help from the posts; it costs \$300 to send each boy
- 6) Boy State participants can apply for college credits
- 7) Kick-off is at Mid-Year Conference

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Commander Kent gave closing remarks.

Further Business/For the Good of the Legion:

- 1) The District 5 survey on post needs must be returned by December 31.
- 2) There is proposed legislation for a veterans scratch lottery ticket. Two legislators are supporting the issue. Posts may be called upon for support.
- 3) A determination will be made at the next DEC meeting if District V should be split in two.

Closing ceremonies were held. The meeting was adjourned at [REDACTED].

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### Version Information

<b>Version Number</b>	1
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