

Roberts W. Sterling, Commander
American Legion Post 205
46 Fairway Drive
Bluffton, SC 29910

April 30, 2014

Mr. Lloyd H. Woods, Department Adjutant
American Legion Department of South Carolina
Post Office Box 3309
Irmo, SC 29063

Dear Adjutant Woods:

This letter is written to lodge an official protest and to contest the results of District 16 Commander election held on Saturday, April 26, 2014. I have previously sent you, as reference, the Department Constitution citations that apply.

John Coaxum of Post 207 was the outgoing District Commander. When the vote was called, he turned over the meeting to his Post Commander, Edgar Williams. Commander Williams then called for nominations. I, as the Commander of Post 205, nominated Charles Lurey of Post 9. The Vice Commander of Post 207 then nominated John Coaxum. Commander Williams then called for the vote and allowed everyone in the room to vote. The vast majority of the members present were from Post 207, and a number of the members were from Post 49, a new post from Hilton Head. Therefore, only one person at the election was from Post 9 and only two from Post 205. Of course, John Coaxum won in a landslide because the vast majority of the Legionnaires present were from his post. I challenged that procedure and stated that each post has a specific number of certified delegates, and I was voting my delegate strength. Commander Williams said that does not apply here, and every legionnaire in the room has one vote and only one vote.

Had the election been conducted in accordance with the Department Constitution, my calculations show that there would have been 10 votes for Charles Lurey (5 from each of Post 9 and 205) and 9 votes for John Coaxum (5 from Post 207 and 4 from Post 49.) In addition, I challenge the authority of Post 49 to vote at all. They had not even received their charter when the vote was called.

For God and Country,

Roberts W. Sterling
Commander
American Legion Post 205
Bluffton, SC