



**Minutes of The American Legion 5th District,
Department of Texas
Meeting**

19 December 2010

Regular District Meeting Called to Order at 1401L.

Roll Call of Officers:

Bernard Aderholt, Commander – Present & Presiding

Freddie Cotten, Vice-Commander – Excused

Jeff Perkins, Adjutant – Excused

John Jimison, Finance Officer – Present

Don Cecil, Chaplain – Present

Gary Poplin, Judge Advocate – Excused

Bill Freauff, Historian - Present

David Herod, Service Officer - Excused

Jim McClendon - Sergeant at Arms – Present

Officers Present: 5

Roll Call of Posts:

Post 23 – Absent

Post 53 – Present

Post 81 – Present

Post 111 – Present

Post 124 – Absent

Post 184 – Absent

Post 218 – Absent

Post 275 – Absent

Post 292 – Absent

Post 368 – Present

Post 424 – Present

Post 453 – Present

Post 504 – Present

Post 507 – Absent

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Post 511 – Present

Post 581 – Absent

Post 597 – Absent

Post 656 – Absent

Post 802 – Absent

Post 855 – Absent

Posts Present: 8

Total Officers & Posts Present: 13

Opening ceremonies were held. The Chaplain gave the opening prayer and the Commander led the Pledge of Allegiance and the reciting of The American Legion Preamble.

The Commander asked to entertain a motion to deviate from standard procedure. Rick Hunter (Post 81) so moved and it was seconded by Alton Brown (Post 53). There was no further discussion, a vote was taken and the vote carried.

The Commander asked for a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Charlie Hale, Gladys Davis, who was the Chaplain Emeritus for the 5th District, and Georgia Rivard, who was a past 5th District President. A candle was lit by the Chaplain in their remembrance.

Roll call was taken by the temporary/acting Adjutant, Gary Smith, and a quorum of Officers and Posts was present.

The Commander read the Finance Report. The details are available in the Report, which was received for filing. A motion to accept the Finance Report as read and subject to audit at a later time was made by Rick Hunter (Post 81) and seconded by Mike Phelan (Post 81). There was no further discussion, a vote was taken and the motion carried.

The Commander gave the District Membership Report. The District is currently in 21st place with 2,205 members. The goal is 3,497 members for 2011. The District is at 63.05% of goal. Post 656 is at 100% of goal. The Commander asked for membership turn-ins. Post 111 submitted one renewal.

The Commander reminded those persons that were going to attend the Mid Winter Convention in Austin to submit their delegate forms and get their reservations made as soon as possible.

The Commander reminded everyone that the District Spring Convention will be held on April 9, 2011 at Post 81. The convention will be a 1-day meeting. S.A. LeJune will contact the hotel to see if he can get a discount for those who would like to stay overnight. Details will be forthcoming.

The Legislative Chairman, Gary Smith, gave the Legislative Report. Dallas County is served by 16 different Texas State Representatives. During the last election, the county picked up 4 conservatives seats. Two federal Bills and one Resolution were passed since the last District meeting. S.1132 (Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act Improvements Act of 2010) became law on October 12, 2010. H.R.3219 (Veterans' Insurance and Health Care Improvements Act of 2010) became law on October

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13, 2010. H.RES.1217 (Recognizes achievements of the soldiers in the 10th Mountain Division) became effective on December 1, 2010. Motion was made by Bob Elkins (Post 453) to accept the report as read and S.A. LeJune (Post 111) seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, a vote was taken and the motion carried.

The Commander stated that the next District meeting will be held at Post 424 on February 20, 2011.

The Commander stated that there have been some ongoing investigations of several Posts. Post 218 has a new Commander, James Battersby. Wayne Duckworth is no longer with the 5th District. Post 53 has a new Commander, Elton Brown. Post 424 has done a complete 180 and is doing fine, but need our support. Post 424 is open 5 days a week now and opens at 3:00 pm. They are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Oratorical contest will be held on January 9 at Post 453 at 1:00 pm. Packets were made available. No candidates have been submitted. The Boy Scouts were mentioned as a possibility for potential candidates.

Jack Jimison made available small pamphlets from Veterans Affairs regarding burial benefits.

The Chaplain stated that he has been kept very busy and is available 7x24.

The Commander thanked Martin Silva, Commander Post 511, for hosting the District meeting.

Bob Elkins stated that the SAL had a Toy Run and their finances are in order. Bob reminded the group that JROTC is just around the corner and that preparations should be made by the Posts. It was mention that Oratorical would be helpful for a Boy Scout's progression as will Boys State.

Martin Silva thanked everybody for attending and thanked his officers and Auxiliary.

Mike Phelan announced that Department made a ruling that Mike would be eligible to run for 1st Division Commander and would appreciate everybody's support.

The Historian, Bill Freauff, stated that his great-niece graduated from basic training at Lackland, AFB and will become a Legionnaire.

S.A. LeJune recognized the success of Squadron 111 and their two projects: Country Day on the Hill Raffle and House Makeover Project. The funds gained from the two projects allowed them to donate about \$800 in gifts to the VA Gift Shop for the patients. Also, Post 111 has formed an ALR Chapter and has had a positive affect on membership and attendance.

Jim McClendon (Post 453) stated that Post 453 has had a difficult time this past several weeks with the loss of a couple of members. He recognized that the District is fortunate in having Don Cecil as its Chaplain.

Rick Hunter stated that the 5th District was represented at the opening of the VA Gift Shop.

Bill Freauff stated anybody not using myLegion.org is missing out on a very useful tool.

New Business:

- Resolution was read from Post 453 endorsing Jim McClendon for the office of 5th District Sergeant at Arms for the term 2011-13.
- The Commander asked that the Assistant Finance Officer, Larry Taylor, be removed from the appointed office. Rick Hunter made the motion to remove Larry Taylor from office and was seconded by S.A. LeJune. There was no further discussion, a vote was taken and the motion carried. A letter needs to be drafted and sent by the Adjutant.
- The Commander asked permission to appoint Pat Sansom as Assistant Finance Officer. S.A. LeJune made the motion to appoint Pat Sansom as Assistant Finance Officer and was seconded by Rick Hunter. There was no further discussion, a vote was taken and the motion carried. Pat accepted the appointment.
- Chaplain Don Cecil asked to have Ed Kownslar appointed to Assistant Chaplain. S.A. LeJune made the motion to appoint Ed Kownslar as Assistant Chaplain and Bill Freauff seconded the motion.
- Post 111 asked to submit a candidate for Fireman of the Year. The Commander made a deadline of March 1 for entries. Candidates will be voted on at the April convention. Post 111's submission will be kept on file.

The Commander wished everybody and their families a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

The closing prayer was given by the Chaplain.

The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the colors.

The Commander adjourned the meeting at 1454L.

The meeting minutes were recorded and transcribed by Gary Smith, Acting Adjutant, and approved by Bernard Aderholt, Commander.

_____ Date: _____

Minutes approved as read by Membership: _____