



**Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL**  
**Department of Texas**  
**Fall Convention Meeting**

Convention held at American Legion Love Field Post 453

21 October 2017

Regular Meeting Called to Order at 1107L by Acting Commander Tom Arista.

Roll Call of Officers:

Ed Kownslar, SAL 5th District Commander – Resigned Office  
Tom Arista, 1st Vice Commander – Present and Acting Commander  
Vacant, 2nd Vice Commander  
Gary Smith, Adjutant – Present  
Judge Advocate – Vacant  
Pat McGee, Finance Officer – Present  
Lewis “Catfish” Elam, Chaplain – Present  
Michael Paul Melgoza, Historian - Present  
Ron Ramirez, Sergeant at Arms – Excused

Officers Present: 5

Squadrons Present: 3  
111, 368, 453

Squadrons Absent:  
81, 184, 275, 424, 504, 507, 511, 597

Guests Present:

Ron Jones, 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander

Gary Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Division Vice Commander and Past 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander

Opening ceremonies were held and led by the Tom Arista. Opening prayer was given by Lewis “Catfish” Elam.

Tom Arista commented on Ed Kownslar’s resignation and his health.

Roll call of the Officers and Squadrons was conducted and a quorum established.

**Minutes:** Michael Paul Melgoza made a motion to waive the reading of the August 20 meeting minutes since they were previously posted, seconded by Pat McGee, motion carried

**Finance Report:** Report was given by Pat McGee. Lewis “Catfish” Elam made a motion to approve the report as read subject to review, seconded by Michael Paul Melgoza, motion carried.

Ron Jones, our 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander brought greetings from the District and spoke about the importance of membership.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** The District is in 6<sup>th</sup> place at 38.81%. Squadron 597 has surpassed the 2018 membership objective and is at 107.69%. Squadron 111 is the only other squadron to achieve the October objective of 55% and is at 87.50%. Two Squadrons, 275 and 368, have not submitted any transmittals. Pat McGee stated he will follow up for Squadron 368.

**Americanism:** Tom Arista iterated the importance of filing a CPR. He mentioned that District and Squadron contributions are reported separately. The same is true of Legion and Squadron contributions.

**Community Service:** Michael Paul Melgoza made a motion for the District to donate \$500 to the Legion Department’s Hurricane Harvey relief fund, seconded by David Perez, motion carried.

**Children & Youth:** Comment was made that Josh Dogs program is coming up again and the question was asked which hospital to donate them to. Squadron 453 is donating to the Scottish Rite Hospital. It was suggested that the Children’s Hospital also be considered. The issue was whether the hospital would send a representative to the Post or not to collect the Josh Dogs. Pat McGee will look into this.

**Boys/Girls State:** Bob Kaminski stated that the District needs a fund raiser to build of the Boys State funds. No action was taken.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Action to write Josh Dogs check for \$500 was completed per Pat McGee.
- Pat McGee completed the task of writing a \$500 check to the Fisher House.

**New Business:**

- Michael Paul Melgoza made a motion that the District donate \$500 to the Department NEF to help Hurricane Harvey victims, seconded by Tom Arista, motion carried.
- Gary Smith stated that we will need to elect a new 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL Commander at our next meeting. Gary Smith will put out the notice to members.
- Tom Arista handed out Blue Books to Squadron Commanders of Squadrons 111, 368 and 453.

**For the Good of the SONS:**

- The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge Coins are now available. Congress approved coins.
- Post 453 had their annual Luau.
- Post 453 purchase underwear for homeless vets.
- Gary Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Division Vice Commander brought greetings from the Department of Texas and iterated the importance of membership.

**Sick Call:** Ed Kownslar has been fighting liver cancer for the past 2 years. He has resigned from all Legion and SAL offices.

Closing Ceremonies were conducted after which the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1145 hours.

Gary Smith, 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL Adjutant