



## **Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL**

### **Department of Texas**

Convention held at American Legion Jackson-Hughes-Jimison Post 368

25 February 2018

Regular Meeting Called to Order at 1316L by Acting Commander Tom Arista.

Roll Call of Officers:

Tom Arista, SAL 5th District Acting Commander – Present

Tom Arista, 1st Vice Commander – Present

Vacant, 2nd Vice Commander

Gary Smith, Adjutant – Present

Judge Advocate – Ed Wimble - Present

Pat McGee, Finance Officer – Present

Lewis “Catfish” Elam, Chaplain – Present

Michael Paul Melgoza, Historian - Present

Ron Ramirez, Sergeant at Arms – Excused

Officers Present: 6

Squadrons Present: 6

111, 368, 453, 507, 511, 597

Squadrons Absent:

81, 184, 275, 424, 504

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.

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

Tom Arista provided award checks to Squadrons 111 and 597 for attaining at least 100% membership by the end of 2017.

Ron Jones, our 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander, brought greetings from the District and spoke about the importance of membership and stated that 2 checks from the 2015 and 2017 District Conventions will be given to the 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL as part of their split.

**Minutes:** Pat McGee made a motion to waive the reading of the October 21 Fall Convention meeting minutes since they were previously posted, seconded by Mike Sanders, motion carried

**Finance Report:** Report was given by Pat McGee. Ed Wimble made a motion to approve the report as read subject to review, seconded by Paul Secor, motion carried.

Ed Wimble made a motion to suspend the regular meeting for purposes of electing a new 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL Commander, seconded by Michael Paul Melgoza, motion carried.

Gary Smith read Lewis ‘Catfish’ Elam’s resolution. Gary Smith made the motion that the District endorse Lewis Elam for the high office of 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL Commander, seconded by Ed Wimble. Acting SAL Commander Tom Arista made 3 calls for other persons interested in running for the office. Paul Secor added his name to the list of candidates. A ballot election was held and Lewis ‘Catfish’ Elam won the election by a vote of 12-2. Lewis was installed as the 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL Commander by Tom Arista, past 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL Commander.

Ed Wimble made a motion to resume the regular meeting session, seconded by Michael Paul Melgoza, motion carried.

Lewis Elam resumed the meeting as the 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL Commander.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** The District is in 9<sup>th</sup> place at 77.63%. Only Squadrons 111 and 597 have met or surpassed the 2018 membership objective of 100%.

**Americanism:** Josh Dogs (10) will be presented from Squadron 453 at Post 453 on March 8 at 7:00pm. Another 14 Josh Dogs from the 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL will also be presented.

**Community Service:** Squadron 111 and Post 111 members installed the sleeve for a flag pole at Life Schools in Cedar Hill. The flag pole will be installed on March 10 with a school ceremony scheduled for March 20 to fly the first flags.

**Children & Youth:** Squadron 368 donated \$500 to the Richardson Police Department.

**Boys/Girls State:** Nothing to report.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- Action to write Josh Dogs check for \$500 was completed per Pat McGee. Tom will order the Josh Dogs.
- 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. Still needs to be completed.

### **New Business:**

- Tom Arista made a motion to donate \$500 to the Texas Homeless, seconded by Paul Secor, motion carried.

### **For the Good of the SONS:**

- Squadron 111 presented a 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL banner flag to the 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL.
- Gary Smith announced that there will be an election at the District Spring Convention to elect a Chaplain and any other vacant officer positions. Appointments by the 5<sup>th</sup> District SAL Commander will also be affirmed.

**Sick Call:** Del Martin and David Perez from 453 have passed away.

Closing Ceremonies were conducted after which the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1408 hours.

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