



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

### **Department of Texas**

Convention held at American Legion Carrollton Post 597

24 June 2018

Regular Meeting Called to Order at 1240L by Commander Lewis “Catfish” Elam.

**Roll Call of Officers:**

Lewis “Catfish” Elam, SAL 5th District Commander – Present

Tom Arista, 1st Vice Commander – Excused

Vacant, 2nd Vice Commander

Gary Smith, Adjutant – Present

Judge Advocate – Ed Wimble - Unexcused

Pat McGee, Finance Officer – Present

Ed Mosley, Chaplain - Present

Michael Paul Melgoza, Historian - Present

Ron Ramirez, Sergeant at Arms – Unexcused

Officers Present: 5

Squadrons Present: 6

111, 275, 368, 453, 511, 597

Squadrons Absent:

81, 184, 424, 504, 507

Guests Present:

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

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

Opening ceremonies were held and led by the Lewis “Catfish” Elam. Opening prayer was given by Dennis Snow. Bill Freauff filled in as acting SAA.

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

**Minutes:** Bill Freauff made a motion to waive the reading of the 2018 April meeting minutes, seconded by Pat McGee, motion carried.

**Finance Report:** Report was given by Pat McGee. Gary Smith made a motion to approve the report as read subject to review, seconded by Dennis Snow, motion carried. Commander Jones provided a check to the SAL for \$182.37 as their share of the net Convention monies collected.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** Commander Elam spoke to the group about membership and its importance. Three installations of officers were conducted by Commander Elam and he stated that District was at 105.93% of its 2018 goal. The Commander would like to see the Squadrons and District be Early Birds and meet a 100% objective by 100%. He encouraged PUFL memberships. Gary Smith added that he would like the Squadrons to get behind Commander Lewis and make him a 2-time 100% Commander – a rarity within the SAL. Gary also explained the Legion Insurance Trust (LIT) and that bringing on a new member for the remaining part of 2018 instead of as a 2019 member because of legal requirements should the new member opt for the free LIT program. The LIT can be accessed at [www.thelit.com](http://www.thelit.com).

**Americanism:** Boys State status and participation was discussed. Dennis Snow discussed placing flags for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, kicking off Oratorical in August by getting with school officials, remembrance of September’s 911, and POW-MIA Day on September 16. Michael Paul Melgoza discussed Flag Day at Post 453, and Juan Delarosa from Post 275 discussed memorial services at Laurel Land cemetery.

**Community Service:** No report.

**Children & Youth:** Commander discussed the Flag Etiquette program and how we could get with schools to further our reach.

**Boys/Girls State:** It was stated that 1100 attended Boys State this year. This is a Legion program, but there is nothing to prevent Squadrons from sponsoring boys or girls through their Post or Unit.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Tom Arista made a motion to donate \$500 to the Texas Homeless (VRC), seconded by Paul Secor, motion carried. Pat McGee completed this task.

**New Business:**

- No new business.

**For the Good of the SONS:**

- Please ensure your Squadron's Consolidated Report has been completed and get it to Tom Arista.
- The Commander discussed needing to do a District Commander's raffle/fund raiser. He will coordinate with Ron Jones.
- SAL Leadership was discussed and members need to be educated on the Legion's principles and take the new, online American Legion Education Institute (ALEI) course. It is free and can be accessed and taken at your leisure at <https://www.legion.org/alei/basic-training>.
- The Commander discussed an SAL Survival Kit – must dos.
- The Commander discussed the SAL Awards and need for program accomplishment recognition.
- The Department SAL Convention will be held in San Antonio on July 13<sup>th</sup> with Roll Call at 1:30pm. Registration is due by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Sick Call:**

- Nothing to report.

At this time, Bill Freauff made motion to suspend regular meeting for the purposes of installing Ed Mosley as the SAL 5<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain, Dennis Snow seconded, motion carried.

Commander Elam installed Ed Mosley as SAL District Chaplain. Michael Paul Melgoza made motion to return meeting to normal business, Bill Freauff seconded, motion carried.

Ed Mosley gave the closing prayer.

The flag was retired after which the meeting was adjourned by the Commander at approximately 1347 hours.

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