



Minutes of 5th District SAL

Department of Texas

Convention held at American Legion Martin Weiss Post 275

19 August 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 and Acting Commander – Present
Vacant, 2nd Vice Commander
Gary Smith, Adjutant – Present
Judge Advocate – Ed Wimble - Excused
Pat McGee, Finance Officer – Present
Ed Mosley, Chaplain - Unexcused
Michael Paul Melgoza, Historian - Present
Ron Ramirez, Sergeant at Arms – Present

Officers Present: 6

Squadrons Present: 8

111, 275, 368, 424, 453, 507, 511, 597

Squadrons Absent:

81, 184, 504, 511, 597

Guests Present:

Ron Jones, 5th District Commander

Tom Arista, Detachment Vice Commander, 1st Division

Jeff Perkins, Past Legion 1st Division & 5th District Commander

Bernard Aderholt, Past Legion Department Sergeant-at-Arms & 5th District Commander

Gary Smith, Past Legion 5th District Commander

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

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

Minutes: Dennis Snow made a motion to waive the reading of the 2018 June meeting minutes, seconded by Tom Arista, 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 Bernard Aderholt, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Tom Arista spoke on goals and membership status for each Squadron.

Commander Elam spoke to the group about membership and its importance. Goals have not been updated on the online Membership report. They will probably be updated after the National Convention to be held this coming week. Only two Squadrons have transmitted memberships for 2019. Several Squadrons have not completed and sent in their officer certification form. The 2019 membership cards will not be sent out until the certification form is received by Department. Michael Paul Melgoza made a motion to approve the report as read subject to review, seconded by Bernard Aderholt, motion carried.

The Commander’s 2019 Membership Project will be the Early Bird project. To that end, the Commander would like to see the Squadrons and District be Early Birds and meet a 100% objective by Nov. 11 and challenged the Squadrons to do so. This should be the Squadron’s highest priority. As always, the Commander will always be available and ready to assist. The Commander circulated a flyer outlining the challenge with awards to be given for 1st and 2nd place within each Squadron (drawing among Squadron members). The flyer is attached to the minutes. Tom Arista made a motion to fund the awards from the District’s finances, seconded by Bernard Aderholt, motion carried.

Americanism: No report.

Community Service: No report.

Children & Youth: It was discussed that the Squadrons should support the Detachment Commander's program when it is announced. Also, the Commander urged Squadrons to be more visible to the community and have a Halloween event.

Boys/Girls State: No report.

Unfinished Business:

- No unfinished business.

New Business:

- Tom Arista made a motion that the SAL District provide \$500 seed money to the 100th Convention effort, seconded by Dennis Snow, motion carried. The money will be paid back from convention sales of pins, etc. and overall remainder of convention profits will be shared equally by the Legion Family.

For the Good of the SONS:

- The Commander recognized Gary Smith for his contributions and service to the SAL with a plaque commemorating the event. Personal Note: This Adjutant was completely humbled and will miss everyone in the 5th District Families.
- **IMPORTANT:** Since Gary has resigned his position of Adjutant due to his impending move to Arizona, the Commander stated the need to fill the now vacant position of 5th District SAL Adjutant and is asking those interested in the position to contact him.

Sick Call:

- Dennis Snow's wife had a blood clot and is paralyzed from the waist down.
- Tom Arista's uncle passed away.
- Ed Kownslar is still battling cancer.

Dennis Snow gave the closing prayer.

The flag was retired after which the meeting was adjourned by the Commander at approximately 1325 hours.

Gary Smith, 5th District SAL Adjutant