



Sons of the American Legion Squadron 111

Cedar Hill, TX

General Membership Meeting

August 04, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The general membership meeting was called to order by Commander David Schneider at 7:09 p.m. at 952 N. Hwy 67 Suite 204, Cedar Hill, TX 75104.

II. Roll Call

1. Officers present for Roll Call: Commander David Schneider, 1st Vice Commander/Chaplain Richard Clements, 2nd Vice Commander / Sergeant at Arms Thomas "Doc" Dimsdle , and Adjutant David William Schneider. Officers with an excused absence: Finance Officer Jan Cloud. Special Guest in attendance: 5th District Commander Lewis Elam.
2. Richard Clements led the opening prayer.
3. Sgt. At Arms Dimsdle displayed the Colors, and the American flag was saluted.
4. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
5. The POW / MIA flag was placed on the empty chair, and a moment of silence was conducted.
6. The Preamble was recited.

III. Previous Minutes of the Last Meeting

There was a motion to accept the past meeting minutes without reading. Note: A copy of the minutes from 07/14/2022 is posted on the post111.org website. The minutes are not yet posted on the new website: post111cedarhilltx.com

In favor of approving: Richard Clements, Doc Dimsdle, and David William Schneider

Against: None

IV. Financial Report

The Finance Officer has an excused absence. The financial report will be read at the next meeting.

V. Sick Call

Please pray for:

1. Jan Cloud: Please pray his pain management gets taken care of.
2. Please pray for healing, comfort, and wisdom for Thomas "Doc" Dimsdle. His wife had recently passed away.

VI. Old Business

There is no old business.

VII. New Business

1. **Blessing of the Bikes:** There is no update currently. The Commander asked if it was alright to get Theresa Hill involved. Everyone agreed. Note: I contacted American Legion Adjutant Mr. Johnny Lewis to ask if they would like to join us in hosting a Blessing of the Bikes and making it an annual event. He will bring it up at their Tuesday meeting. An idea David William has is to purchase first aid kits that riders can carry with them on the road.
2. **Announcements & Awards by 5th District Commander Elam:**
 1. At the Annual Convention in Austin, Texas new officers were voted in:
 - Ralph Austin: Judge Advocate
 - Clifton Guillory: Texas State Commander (Note He is a dual member. This helps the SAL since he can work with the American Legion too.)
 2. Awards and Information:
 - **Austin Meeting News:** At the meeting they gave awards to 5th District: All squadrons in the 5th district were in good standing. All Squadrons had completed all their documents in a timely manner. All squadrons met all their membership goals 100%. Unknown to Commander Elam the 5th District should have been recognized 3 years ago, but someone didn't know that 5th District was supposed to receive an award. When it was found out at the meeting members were upset. Commander Elam said that he is here for our members and believes in who we are. His wife in Auxiliary got all her units 100%, so she got the Best District President in Texas. 5th District did well. Commander Elam thanks our Commander because he attends the meetings, and all of us.
 - **Membership Goals:** We were presented a 2022 100% Goal Membership award ribbon which is now hanging in the room. We also received a check for \$50.00 which I will give to the Finance Officer Jan Cloud at our next meeting.
 - **Child Welfare Foundation (CWF):** We received a red 2022 award ribbon from the Child Welfare Foundation which is also now hanging in the room in the room. Our main donation program is the Child Welfare Foundation. The Rider's main foundation is Legacy. We can go ahead and submit our donation to the foundation to receive our 2023 award early.

- **Updated Contact List:** The Commander received an updated contact list for the commanders in the 5th District.
- **Sweats for Vets:** Commander Schneider was instrumental in helping to start Sweats for Vets for the VA Hospital. They had to build a whole new room for all the clothes, a clothing department. After Post 111 Commander started donating, word spread to the other posts, and it skyrocketed from there. We are encouraged to continue.
- **New Member Initiation:** When our post gets a new member, we are to have them recite the Oath of Membership found in the SAL Handbook. All the members should recite it with the new member. Commander Elam suggested reading the Oath because it is a powerful statement. To commemorate the ceremony, we are supposed to give the new member flag. Commander Elam brought us two dozen flags.
- **Flying Flags for Heroes:** Commander Elam was told that some cemeteries are not keeping the American Flag that the SAL puts on a Veterans grave, so we are not going to keep the flags there anymore. National told him while at the cemetery we are to present the flag, put it in the ground, stand back, thank them for their service to our country, and salute. It isn't called cemetery, but it is called **PRESENTATION**. This evening Commander Elam gets credit for 24 presentations because he brought the flags for us to use. When we present the flags, we get to count the flags on our CSR. Post 111 Commander mentioned we were planning on going out in teams where one person presents the flag while the other salutes it. Then we pick up the flags and reversing the order go to the next row and continue. If it is photographed, we send it to Commander Elam. **When going to the cemetery it is called Flying Flags for Heroes.**
- **Flag Appreciation Pledge Awards & Signature Binder:** Commander Elam made us a special binder with a signature page that was given to the Sgt. at Arms with a signature page to keep a record of those who are flying a flag in front of their home, and whether it is illuminated at night. He will contact Commander Elam when new members are recorded in the book so they will receive an award. An award for Flag Appreciation was presented to Commander Schneider, Thomas DImdsle, and David William. Jan Cloud and Ramon De Maria were not present to receive their award. Thomas Dimdle will hold onto it in the binder to give when they are present. He will get one made for Richard Clements. If there is a checkmark in front of their name Sgt. at arms will present members with the award. If they don't have a check mark Commander Elam needs to get an award made to be given to the member. If we do a buddy check and they fly a flag they can be added to the signup sheet without signing it themselves. They must be a member of the Post though. He stressed that we get members to fly a flag in front of our homes and have it illuminated. Every member that flies a flag will either have a Y or N to signify if they have a light on their flag.
- **The Value of Flying the American Flag:** Every 4 members that fly a flag that is illuminated at night equals a million-dollar donation when the volunteer information is presented to Congress. It will take 8 signatures with flags that are not illuminated to equal the million-dollar donation when presented to Congress. Lowes, Home Depot, and Walmart have a light for less than \$20 that you can stick in the ground and shines up or you can mount it above the flag to illuminate it. It doesn't require wiring. The SAL want

the whole 24 hours. We were asked when have we ever been able to give a donation of \$250 thousand dollars. He stressed how valuable our Sgt. at Arms is. Congress valued each volunteer hour as \$27.50 when multiplied with 9,000 hours would total around \$250 thousand but legislation is about to be signed in that will increase to \$30.00 per volunteer hour which will equal a \$260 thousand dollar donation just for flying as American flag. Again, for the volunteer flag hours to count the person flying the flag would have to be a member of Sons of the American Legion, and current. We are also able to count the American Flag that flies illuminated in front of our post on our CSR. Not only can we count it, so can the American Legion, Legion Riders, and the Auxiliary. The monetary value to help our Veterans is a focus on convincing others to become members. Ask them when the last time they were able to donate \$250 thousand. When asked how and how they can help, all they must do is become a member and fly their flag illuminated for 24 hours daily. Something as simple as that has a huge impact for helping our Veterans and the military. Everything we do for volunteer hours has a monetary value which is then reported to Congress. There is a report coming out that will tell the total monetary value of all the SAL volunteer hours. If you would like to view before then it can be found on the National website under Community Service. Commander Elam stressed that we are not wasting our time when we volunteer or fly the flag, our time is valuable.

- **Upcoming Open Awards Ceremony:** Post 453, Commander Elam, and Sharon are hosting an open award ceremony at Post 453 on Sunday, August 21st from 3pm to 5pm. If anyone would like to come to recognize someone else with the Legion, Sons, and Auxiliary they are encouraged to attend. They can get the plaque appreciation awards. It is more like a recognition. We bring the awards that we would like to present. We could recognize Theresa Hill for her help at Post 111. We will have spokesperson from each squadron.

3. 5th District Post Announcements:

1. The next 5th District Sons Meeting will be September 18th around 12:30/1:00pm at Post 453.
2. Commander Elam was told to ask Commander Schneider if we would be able to host a meeting for the SAL and Auxiliary. It might be the middle of November. Will our building be able to accommodate 20 to 30 people. It might not be needed depending on the Fall Convention though. If we think we could host a District Meeting the 5th District would be interested in having it at Post 111.
3. Theresa Hill has a Benefit Run coming up. The date is not yet known.
4. A reminder that Posts 397 and 424 will be having a Benefit Ride in October, but the dates aren't known yet but the Commander will update the post when he has the information. When we have a date, we will need volunteers. The to events, along with feeding the riders was agreed upon on the July 14th meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

1. Richard Clements led the closing prayer.
2. Sgt. At Arms Dimsdle retired the Colors. The American flag was saluted.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m. by Commander David schneider.