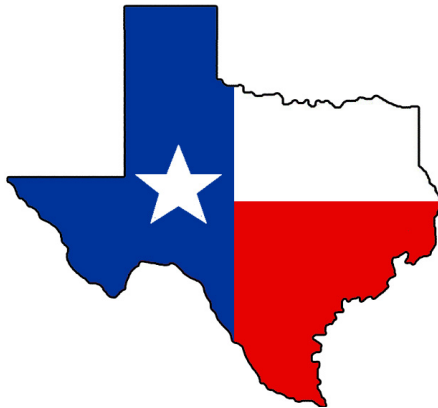




THE LEGION TIMES

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Department of Texas

June 2012 • Volume 93, Issue 11



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Message from the Commander **"Making a Difference Today for Tomorrow"**

Fellow Legionnaires, one month to go and my term in office will be over. Wow! I want to thank you for the privilege and honor to have served you and the Department of Texas. As commander it was a wonderful and also a learning experience that I will never forget. This experience has re-enforced my beliefs in this great organization. The friendships developed and those renewed during my travels all over the state of Texas and out of state will always be with me. I can never thank you enough for the wonderful hospitality, friendships and words of encouragement this year as I traveled to your Posts. To the Department Staff, thank you for your dedication to our veterans and keeping the department running smooth. To Bill West, "thank you" for keeping me straight and on track. To the Posts, Districts and Divisions members, I appreciate you and thank you for all your hard work. We did not accomplish our mission to make goal but we gave it a good try. Now we must concentrate on next year so that we can have a better year so we can move forward to a better tomorrow.



Working and traveling alongside Auxiliary President Mary Lee Waddell, Department Detachment Commander Steve Slaughter and Abran Zavala of the Legion Riders and oh I must not forget Connie Waddell (President Mary's chauffeur) was also a great and fun experience as we met all over State of Texas. What a great team to work with!

Again, my thanks and appreciation for a wonderful experience and a wonderful year that Frances and I will never forget. God bless you, God bless our Legion Family and our men and women in uniform who are protecting our freedom and God bless America.

For God and Country,
J. G. (Lupe) Garza
State Commander

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DEPARTMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

The American Legion, Department of Texas is excited to announce that the 2012 Department Training will be conducted at the following locations across the state to provide everyone the chance to attend.

Corpus Christi – June 9th at American Legion Post 364
Houston – June 16, 2012 at Crosby American Legion Post 658
San Antonio – June 23, 2012 at American Legion Post 2

Some of the topics to be covered during this session include:

- *How to develop and administer a scholarship program*
- *Department Programs – Baseball, Boys State, Scouting, Junior Shooting*
- *Membership Growth*
- *MyLegion.org*
- *Department Awards*
- *Public Relations*
- *Veterans Assistance*

The training is open to all Legion Family Members wishing to learn more about The American Legion, training will begin at 9:00 am at each location.

Anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to complete the American Legion Extension Institute Course (ALEI) prior to attending as it will provide you with basic information about The American Legion.

All attendee are asked to fill out and submit the registration form so we may have a headcount for the number of attendees at each session. We need this for the Posts that are hosting the training for setup and lunch.

Calling all Legion family “hams”

No, not those of you who excel at the karaoke machine.

We're looking for federally licensed “ham” radio operators who are members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion.

Check out The American Legion Amateur Radio Club website at www.legion.org/ham-radio and join the nation's fastest growing amateur radio club – for free.

Get the brochure, “Amateur Radio & The American Legion” by sending a request to pr@legion.org or download it at:

<http://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/amature-radio-brochure-web.pdf>

Not licensed but would like to get an amateur radio license or find out more about this rapidly growing hobby? The website is loaded with information on how to do that too.

2011-2012 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

J. G. Garza, Department Commander
James Fleming, Department Vice Commander
Jim Prendergast, National Executive Committeeman
Paul Dillard, Alternate National Executive Committeeman
William West, Department Adjutant
Charles Edwards, Department Chaplain
Walter Ivie, Department Treasurer
Daniel Corbin, Department Judge Advocate
Cyndi Miller, Department Historian
Sandy Kousman, Department Sergeant-at-Arms
Terry Bigley, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Ken Mueller, Immediate Past Department Commander
Michael Simon, Director of Internal Affairs
Edward Reyes, Department Service Officer
Michael Lacy, Department Service Officer
Rebecca Hollingsworth, Department Service Officer
Donald Bridschge, Department Service Officer

DIVISION COMMANDERS

Linda Reed, 1st Division Commander
Ashton Thomas, 2nd Division Commander
Connie Jo Popham, 3rd Division Commander
W. L. Fleming, 4th Division Commander

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Jimmy Walker, 1st District Commander
Charles Denson, 2nd District Commander
Michael Croson, 3rd District Commander
Robert Bunch, 4th District Commander
Jeff Perkins, 5th District Commander
James Osborne, 6th District Commander
Everett Ison, 7th District Commander
Bryan Coleman, 8th District Commander
Glen Moody, 9th District Commander
Bill Moore, 10th District Commander
John Rogers, 11th District Commander
Alan Robart, 12th District Commander
James Carminati, 13th District Commander
Walt Myers, 14th District Commander
Noe Alvarado, 15th District Commander
Roger Folmar, 16th District Commander
Donald Douglas, 17th District Commander
Harold Lehnick, 18th District Commander
Bill Youngren, 19th District Commander
Fred Vasquez, 20th District Commander
Johnnie Washburn, 21st District Commander
Jerry Blaylock, 22nd District Commander
Robert Hester, 23rd District Commander

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Texas? If so, please follow these basic guidelines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf). **No ".docx" files please, as these are often problematic.** Save your file as the same name of the article, so we can easily keep track of it. And be sure to make it clear who the author is, whether it's you or if you are just forwarding it to us.
- **WE LOVE ARTICLES WITH PHOTOS**, or any other kind of images! Include photos and/or artwork for articles *separately* (NOT embedded in the article) as high resolution (300 dpi, or better) JPGs. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with

your article. Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding captions, and/or name of the photographer if necessary.

- Spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. We do our best to catch typos, but sometimes they still slip by. You can help us greatly here by simply running your spell check function in your word processing program.

- **E-mail everything directly to us at times@txlegion.org by the 20th of every month for it to appear in the very next issue.** This way we have plenty of time to work with in case we need to clarify anything with you.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and hope you continue to help us grow The Legion Times!

Message from the Auxiliary President

For The Good Of Veterans

Wal-Mart and Goodwill's have entered into a joint venture geared to assist veterans and their families. They announced their intentions to hire more of our returning service members. Wal-Mart and Goodwill have added an additional resource to assist veterans with employment. Operation: GoodJobs is a new program funded by Wal-Mart and administered by Goodwill that will help veterans and their families succeed in the workplace. The program will assist veterans with finding jobs, advancing their careers and ensuring the long-term financial success of their family, according to a news release.

Wal-Mart is granting \$1 million to Operation: GoodJobs and the program will be administered in Austin, Houston and Tacoma through 2013.

"Everyone is struggling to find good jobs these days, but veterans face particular challenges, and it is our duty as a nation to support these young men and women who are having difficulties transitioning back into civilian life," said Jim Gibbons, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries International in a news release. "We at Goodwill believe it is absolutely imperative that we give each of these veterans every opportunity they need to thrive." Article posted on the American Legion Auxiliary National Website

During the month of May, I had the honor and pleasure to attend and support two very special American Legion Family volunteers, at the 2012 Mayor's Volunteer Houston Award and Salute to Volunteerism Luncheon. American Legion Family sends congratulation to Jack and JoAnn Crawford for their many hours of dedication and volunteerism at Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in support of our Veterans. Their love and support of our Veterans just keep on growing. Thank You Jack and JoAnn.

Memorial Day is unofficially the beginning of Summer, but for the American Legion Family, it is a day of remembrance. As we will participate in parades, visits cemeteries, hold memorial services and celebrate with family and friends, the American Legion Family will always remember. We will remember and honor you, it is because of you we are able to enjoy Freedom. Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m., plan to pause and observe this moment of remembrance.

*For God & Country
Mary Waddell, Auxiliary President*



2012 Memorial Day New Trinity Cemetery Tribute

When the members of The Donald N. Thompson American Legion Post 655 in Haltom City Texas discovered a local cemetery needed attention and had veterans dating back to the 1800's, they went to work. After coordinating volunteers from the city, several local groups and the Legion Family, the area was ready for the public.

The American Legion Post 655 brought together a team including Mayor Hutchison, Police Chaplain Hamlin, Richland High School JROTC Color Guard, Boy and Girl Scouts, the Cemetery Board and more for the first Memorial Day Service at this cemetery in many years. Over 300 flags were placed marking known veteran graves including three dating back to the Civil War. About 100 Veterans and friends attended the impressive service.



Inscription on the historical marker:

"When the Rev. Greene Fretwell, a former slave, died in 1886, there was no black cemetery in this part of Tarrant County. With donations collected by his widow, Frances, the trustees of Trinity Chapel Methodist Church bought two acres in 1889 for a church and burial ground. Worship services were held under a brush arbor until a frame church was built here. By the 1920s, burials began on adjacent land, known as New Trinity Cemetery. Additional property was designated in 1931 as People's Burial Park. Today the three sites are commonly called New Trinity Cemetery."

An excellent video was published on May 29, 2012 by GlobeTrotterFive
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUNjA3onDCK>

More pictures are in a District 12 scrapbook at
<http://www.kencox.us/scrapbook/20120528NewTrinity/20120528NewTrinity.html>

Submitted by Ken Cox, District 12 Hubmaster

Women Veterans Task Force Draft Plan Released

VA Seeks Public Comment on Strategies

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs is releasing for public comment a draft of its strategic report to address key issues facing women Veterans. The plan outlines steps for improvements to care and services for women Veterans that are sustainable, accountable and a part of the department's culture and operations.

"Expanding care and services to women Veterans is too important to limit ourselves solely to the views within the department, so we are seeking feedback from all stakeholders, most importantly women Veterans themselves," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "The VA must be visionary and agile enough to anticipate and adjust not only to the coming increase in women Veterans, but also to the complexity and longevity of treatment needs."

Shinseki formed a task force to develop an action plan to address women Veterans' issues. Since then, the group has conducted a broad survey of department experts to identify those issues and organize them by priority. The draft report is an interim step prior to VA finalizing its overall plan.

The report comes at an important juncture in VA's history that demands a review of the quality, quantity, and types of services and programs it provides to women Veterans. The number of women Veterans using VA has increased 83 percent in the past decade, from about 160,000 to over 292,000 between fiscal years 2000 and 2009, compared with a 50 percent increase in men.

Women are now the fastest growing cohort within the Veteran community. In 2011, about 1.8 million or 8 percent of the 22.2 million Veterans were women. The male Veteran population is projected to decrease from 20.2 million men in 2010 to 16.7 million by 2020. In contrast, the number of women Veterans will increase from 1.8 million in 2011 to 2 million in 2020, at which time women will make up 10.7 percent of the total Veteran population.

VA is training providers in basic and advanced topics in women's health through mini-residencies, and over 1200 providers have currently received training. Comprehensive women's health care can be provided within three different models of care, including comprehensive women's clinics; separate, but shared, space women's clinics; or integrated primary care clinics. All of these clinic models ensure that women receive all of their primary health care (prevention, medical, and routine gynecologic care) by a single primary care provider. A network of medical directors and program managers who coordinate care for women Veterans now encompasses all 153 medical centers in the VA Health Care System.

The public notice and instructions for how to submit comments will be posted at www.regulations.gov. The draft written report will be open for comment for 30 days, and responders will have a number of options to provide both electronic and written feedback.

*Readers will also be able to participate in a public discussion board on the Internet at:
<http://vawomenvetstratplan.uservoice.com/forums/159415-general>*

*To view the report without making recommendations, please visit VA's website at:
http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/Draft_2012_Women-Veterans_StrategicPlan.pdf*

A WORD ABOUT LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST



LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST

Over Four Decades of Partnership for a Healthy America

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was formed in 1966 with two primary goals: to provide Legion families with low-cost insurance protection, and to provide a source of revenue to participating Legion Departments.

The Trust has been so successful in its forty-three years that today over 2,000,000 Legionnaires in 48 participating Departments are enrolled in this unique program.

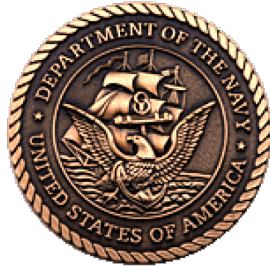
Also, in the same period of time, hundreds of millions of dollars in claim benefits have been paid to Legionnaires and their families through the LIT; and over \$52 million in allocations have been paid to participating Legion Departments.

The first Trust insurance plan to be offered was the Hospital Income Protection plan, a program designed to pay fixed dollar amounts for periods of hospital confinement. Over the years, other insurance coverage offered included: Cancer, Accidental Death, Travel Accident, Critical Illness, Disability Income, Emergency Assistance, Long Term Care, Medicare Supplement, Discount Cards, Dental, Whole Life, Auto, Homeowners, Identity Theft, and Home Health Care.

Since its creation, AGIA has worked closely with the Trust to develop insurance programs especially designed for Department members and their families. We are proud to serve you through the Trust and invite your inquiries and suggestions on any aspect of our activities.



Army



Navy



Marine Corps



Air Force

Front Side(s)



Reverse Side

Order on-line at **www.vetcoin.us**

The coin that honors all American Veterans

This commemorative coin should be in the hands of every American who ever donned the uniform and solemnly swore
“that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.....”

Who should own the Vetcoin?

The Vetcoin was designed to honor all American Veterans from all branches of service, both men and women, who served honorably in WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as stations, posts, bases and abroad ships around the world.

Perfect Memento

A perfect memento for reunions, special veteran events, relatives, friends or even strangers who have served honorably. A memento like this will be a family heirloom to be passed down from generation to generation.

Giving Back

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Vetcoin will be used for scholarship awards to children and dependents of those veterans killed in action or permanently disabled.

About the coin

The inscription on the reverse side is encircled with a laurel wreath representing distinction and honor and joined together with a ribbon representing those who paid the supreme sacrifice. The five stars represent the five Armed Services of the United States.

If you prefer to order by phone or mail, call 405-842-6548 or write Vetcoin, PO Box 20303, Oklahoma City, OK 73156

The Vetcoin is not authorized or endorsed by any member of the Armed Forces or any other component of the Department of Defense

THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST (LIT)

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All Department Insurance Plans

Do not buy Insurance until you learn about the
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LIT FAST FACTS:

- ★ Founded in 1966 to provide Legionnaires with high-quality insurance products at low group rates.
- ★ Serves 48 American Legion Departments.
- ★ Over 675,000 members enrolled.
- ★ As of 2010, paid over \$500,000,000 in claim benefits to Legionnaires and their families.
- ★ As of 2010, paid over \$55,000,000 in allocations back to participating Departments.
- ★ Your Department has its own representative called a Trust Director who actively oversees the workings of the LIT.
- ★ Managed and administered by A.G.I.A., Inc.

**For fast facts on any plan,
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- Fill out the card on the back of the brochure and mark the boxes to get more information on any of these products.
- Then drop the card in the mail — the postage is already paid! Or if you'd rather, call us at our toll-free number — 1-800-235-6943 or go online at www.theLIT.com

*Product specifications and availability vary by state. Specific information on all benefits and exclusions will be mailed to you along with eligibility details.

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1-800-445-3269**

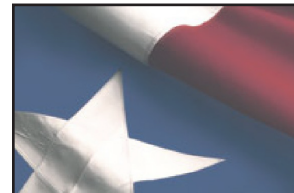
FEATURED PLANS:*

- ★ **Emergency Assistance Plus** — 24-hour emergency and medical back-up plan to help Legionnaires handle almost any crisis away from home that health insurance usually will NOT cover. This includes Medical Evacuation, Medical Assistance, Travel Assistance, and Assistance for Companions.
- ★ **Hospital Indemnity** — Pays Legionnaires for hospitalization resulting from a covered injury or illness. Benefits help pay for the expenses not covered by primary insurance.
- ★ **Cancer Care** — Pays Legionnaires benefits for the treatment of cancer, including coverage for hospital room and board, chemotherapy, drugs and medicine, radiation therapy, nursing care, surgery, and much more.
- ★ **Travel Accident** — Pays death benefit for travel-related accidents. Also pays a daily benefit for hospitalization resulting from a travel-related accident.
- ★ **Accident Protection** — Pays benefits for covered accidents. You get round-the-clock protection — 24 hours a day, anywhere in the world.
- ★ **Medicare Supplement** — Pays Legionnaires age 65 and over benefits to supplement what Medicare doesn't cover, such as deductibles and co-payments.
- ★ **LifeLock** — LifeLock, the leader in identity theft protection, helps protect Legionnaires' identity — even if your information falls into the wrong hands. As a LifeLock member, if you become a victim of identity theft because of a failure in LifeLock's service, they'll help you fix it at their expense, up to \$1,000,000.
- ★ **Long Term Care** — Pays cash benefits for nursing and/or home health care. Benefits pay for skilled, intermediate or custodial care in a nursing home.
- ★ **Auto and Homeowners** — Valuable automobile coverage for all your vehicles. Choose liability limits, and receive discounts for a safe driving record, low mileage, multiple vehicle coverage, and for being over age 50.



The Legion Times
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From The American Legion,
Department of Texas

Department Sponsored Insurance Programs

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been The Department of Texas's sponsored member benefits program for 7 years and continues to fulfill our members needs while being the only such program to benefit our Department.

For more information on the products and services provided by the Legionnaire Insurance Trust,

Call: **1-855-297-2218**

Or visit us on the web at:
www.theLIT.com

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