Message from the Commander

I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. It is now time to get motivated. Oratorical season has begun, and Boys State is about to start. These are two of our greatest programs. I encourage each post to participate in these two great programs. To assist with Boys State, each month there will be an article in the Legion Times to provide necessary information about Boys State. At Mid-Winter, there is a training class for Boys State on how to process the paperwork and on how to conduct the interview. The training is on Saturday morning, February 8th at the Omni Hotel. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the training. There is training for Baseball and a representative of TABC will also be conducting training. Texas is in 53rd place for membership out of 55 departments. I hope with the beginning of the new year, we can find the motivation to increase our membership. I encourage everyone to have fun with membership and it will grow. I have stated, “Let’s have fun with membership for a couple of hours and then enjoy each other comradeship. Next year’s budget is based on the funds we raise this year and membership is the largest portion of that funding. We need to grow membership in order to pay for the programs that we support. The funding is needed to support our veterans and their families. I want to increase the number of service officers that we have but without funding that will not happen. There are 1.7 million veterans in the State of Texas and right now we only have four service officers. Our driving force for increasing membership should be to increase the number of service officers we have to support the veterans in the State of Texas. We need to work the programs and have fun with membership. I hope the division commanders and district commanders work together to show what Texas can do. It is a team effort, and no one can do it by themselves. I know in my heart that the Department of Texas can do this.

I pray that all our veterans, families and active duty personnel are safe around the world.

This year will be based on FUN and Devotion to Mutual Helpfulness to support The Four Pillars and to support each other. Send your ideas to: cdrtxlegion@gmail.com and I will share them with the rest of the Department of Texas.

Thank you for your support and ideas,
Jeff Perkins
Department Commander
Department of Texas
God Bless the United States
God Bless The American Legion Family
WHAT IS THAT I AM HEARING?...
PLAY BALL!

That is the sound we are hearing as the baseball season is now getting ready to begin.

The American Legion Department of Texas Baseball program has been around since 1926, when a team from Decatur won the state title.

We need every Post in the state to get involved within their community to sponsor a team. We can make baseball great again in the state of Texas by working with the various organizations, schools and coaches to find players and build teams.

Everyone knows that baseball is one of the American Legion programs that change lives “Just Ask”, the old pros and they will tell you, “Baseball is a game of character”. Does it achieve its purpose? Yes it does, better than any other program.

We will be available to help you. All you have to do is “Just Ask”. You may contact me or anyone of the members listed below and they will be glad to help you.

Remember that Legion programs change lives “Just Ask!”

How to start an American Legion Baseball Team
1. Go to the American Legion Department of Texas Web Site and click on programs.
2. Under Programs Select Baseball.
3. Scroll thru the site it will tell you the web site for National American Legion Baseball.
5. Down load the National Baseball Rules.
6. Down Load the State Baseball Rules.
7. Registration Starts the 1st of January of every year.
8. Under the National web site there are many informational programs about Baseball.
9. If you have any questions please contact the Baseball Chairman, the Baseball Committee member, and the Baseball Director.
10. They are listed below.

Our contact information:
Don Toohey
ddt2e@rocketmail.com

Baseball Committee Member:
Cyndi Miller
cmiller23@live.com

Baseball Director:
Espiridion Zuniga
espiridion.zunga@yahoo.com
Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Texas? If so, please follow these guidelines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Word format (.doc, .docx) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf) or as a PDF.
- Name your article! Create the headline and save with a proper file name so we can easily recognize it.
- Tell us who the author is, whether it’s you or if you are just forwarding it to us.
- Please attach any photos and/or artwork for articles separately (NOT embedded in your text file) as high resolution JPGs (300 dpi, or better). 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, name of the photographer, etc.
- Please 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 software.
- E-mail everything directly to times@txlegion.org by the 20th of every month, for it to appear in the following 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!
I truly believe that the military instills in us certain characteristics like selfless service, leadership, loyalty and duty. The members of the American Legion that choose to be involved don’t do it because they need recognition they do it because we were taught not to ignore problems but to find solutions. Anyone who has been a senior leader in the military or a leader in the corporate world has seen some type of problem solving diagram that outlines how you come to making the right choice to solving a problem.

But it boils down to simple lesson I learned in the military. I was taught to never walk past a piece of trash on a base without picking it up. If you failed to do so and you were caught then 10 push ups would most likely follow a loud voice. Now I am sure that the main purpose was to keep the base looking clean but what this taught me was if I saw something wrong then I shouldn’t ignore it but to take actions to fix it. This could be as simple as bending and picking up that piece of trash.

As I reflect on 2019 I am so humbled by everything. When I got out of the Army in 2005 I was probably at my lowest point. With the lack of support I had in the military I was medically discharged for my PTSD. I couldn’t sleep, I was angry and depressed and a multitude of other things. In fact at the end of 2005 I was fired from my first real job after the military because my the First Sergeant at my last unit told the background investigator that I was mentally unstable, crazy and untrustworthy. Now fast forward 14 years later and I am just humbled by the opportunities that God has given me. I heard someone tell me the person we are today is the culmination of decisions we made in our past. Since joining the American Legion I have had so many opportunities come my way.

2019 has been a wonderful year. January I was recognized as the Post Adjutant of the Year for Texas, March received the Jockey Texas True Hero Award, May received the Royse City Modern Woodmen Hometown Hero Award, and now I was honored to share my story in the National I am the American Legion.

There is a saying “Whether you think you can or you think you can’t. You are right”. I am sharing this so you know that no matter how bad you may have it today the future is bright. God opens up doors for us every single day and we choose to either walk past it or we choose to walk through it. Sometimes the door may even be locked but if you knock hard enough it will open for you. We all face adversity but how you react to adversity will show a person’s true character.
Although Rockwall County is one of the wealthiest counties in Texas there are numerous families that struggle during the holidays. Recently the Laramore-Osborne American Legion Post supported a local food pantry with food donations. The post provided 25 complete Thanksgiving meals that included Turkeys, stuffing, potatoes and all of the sides. The meals provided were given to local families who are less fortunate. Poverty is a real issue that affects everyone. Often times it could be single parents or grandparents who have custody of their grand kids while others maybe struggling because the job they have doesn’t pay enough.

In addition to the 25 meals the post also received monetary donations that helped purchase additional food to give to the food pantry. This additional food will assist families during Christmas. The post purchased meats, flour, sugar, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, rice, potatoes and so much more. All in all the post purchased over $1,500 worth of food that supported the community. Post Commander Rosa Ortega said that she was amazed by the generosity of the members. “This was our first year to try this and had no idea how much we could do. We exceeded all expectations.”

We want to thank all of our members for their hard work this year and for supporting the community.

Pictures are of the food donations presented to the food pantry.

Post 100 Riders Brings Holiday Cheer to Christmas Parade

On December 14th Legion Riders of Post 100 participated in the Royse City Christmas Parade. The American Legion Riders is a very visible arm of Post 100. They participate in numerous rides and events throughout the year. Although they are a new group they support post activities and conduct numerous rides. On December 14th they joined the community in the Christmas Parade. They even brought the grinch with them (member Scott Alderson). But even the grinch couldn’t stop the holiday cheer. I want to thank the members for their support of the post and the community.
It is my pleasure to provide a brief update on your American Legion Texas Boys State program, which continues to be one of the most respected in the Country. Thank you to our Department Commander for permitting us opportunity to share with you in this edition and in the coming months.

This year, we had 1033 Statesmen attend the program, sponsored by 233 Legion posts (of about 460 posts). 508 of about 2048 Texas public schools were represented (25%). The experience was amazing, with a litany of visiting dignitaries, and fantastic distinguished guest speakers, all mixed in to the intense and powerful “learn by doing” experience.

If you are not aware, the words “American Legion” were added above our Logo. This logo goes on all our materials, including shirts. It is amazing how many people represent around the state with their American Legion Texas Boys State swag!

Our social media presence during Boys State was profound. In today’s digital age, it was fascinating to see how the Statesmen leveraged technology as they ran for office and to see how many parents and others were able to stay connected as the program unfolded. It is a new world, and I am proud that our Legion is at the cutting-edge in leveraging technology in a way that is very beneficial to our organization. From nightly newscasts, to campaign videos, to social media sites in support of their candidates, we are in the digital mix in the way that is organic to this generation of Statesmen. Please take a moment to see some of the videos, postings, and other such things from this year:

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/txbsnetwork  
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TexasBoysState  
Twitter: https://twitter.com/texasboysstate

Boys State 2020 will occur 7-12 June. Registrations will be likely be due by mid-May, but the exact final submission date is to-be-determined. We try to keep registration open as long as possible, but also balance against the necessary planning we must do before 1,000+ young men descend upon Austin for the program. It is a complicated operation, as you well understand.

This year, we were able to keep tuition at $295 per Statesmen. Actual cost per attendee is about $330, which we currently underwrite in other ways.

Most importantly, however, thank you, in advance, for helping find, and then sending us, the best talent in your local areas to participate in this transformative experience!

(continued)
How else can you help? A few ways: (1) Please continue to tell the amazing Boys State story in every and any way you can; (2) Share with us the successes—even long into the future—that the Statesmen you sponsor share with you; (3) If your post isn’t sponsoring Delegates, please start!; (4) Personally represent our Legion during registration by roving about the registration lines saying hello to parents/friends/Statesmen/family as they wait to register (7 June); (5) Help us run the Boys State Store on registration day (see picture) (7 June); and (6) Join us for “Legion Night” to celebrate the program, our Legion, and the Country (11 June). At the right time, we will send additional details via the hub master on these opportunities.

And check out our newly-designed and refreshed website: https://www.texasboysstate.com/. The most up-to-date information can always be found there. We also endeavor to send periodic updates with important information to you via the Department hub master.

While I have the opportunity, I express my public thanks to the entire crew that volunteers their valuable time, year over year, to make this program tick. I know you share in the gratefulness that we have so many folks that choose to spend hundreds of hours a year doing something that changes lives—by means of American Legion Texas Boys State.

And, importantly, thank you so much for your unending support. Your Boys State program, soon to celebrate its 80th year, continues to make a real, tangible, meaningful, inspiring difference in the lives of Texas youngsters. There are simply no programs like it. Thank you so very much.

On behalf of the entire Boys State executive committee, we wish you and yours a most excellent 2020!

Respectfully,
Casey Z. Thomas
Chairman
chairman@texasboysstate.com
Celebrating our 100th Anniversary of the American Legion of Texas

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Mail to: American Legion PO Box 140527 Austin, TX. 78714
100th Anniversary Order Form

The American Legion is celebrating our 100th Anniversary and the Department of Texas has several commemorative items available for purchase to mark this milestone!

Please see our order form on the previous page.
Just fill out and mail to the Department Headquarters with your check or money order and we will send the items to you.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

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TEXAS LONE STAR RECRUITER PIN

Have you earn yours??

Awarded to Legionnaires for recruiting “NEW” members into The American Legion. This award is based upon the total accumulative number of New Members the Recruiter has signed up into The American Legion from the inception of this award through their Legion career. The pin will be awarded starting with the #1 for the first new member and then increase in increments of 5 (5, 10, 15, 20, etc.) based upon the accumulative total of new members recruited. Once the recruiter is awarded a pin level, he/she will work for the next higher pin level and once a pin level has been achieved a duplicate pin level will not be awarded.

CONTACT YOUR POST ADJUTANT TO GET YOURS!

Renew your membership online

Please continue to support your fellow veterans, troops, their families, youth and our nation.

Your annual dues help support programs in your community and across the nation. American Legion programs and services include: Troop Support, Child Welfare Foundation, Heroes to Hometowns, American Legion Baseball, Department Service Officers, Family Support Network, Flag Advocacy & Etiquette, Junior ROTC & ROTC, Operation Comfort Warriors, Scholarships, Veterans Job Fairs, and many others.

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What if you were Bob?

George and Bob both go on a solo fishing trip to a beautiful, but remote, town in Alaska every summer. While enjoying the idyllic scenery, they both notice chest pains — they are having a heart attack!

What happens next?

George has **Emergency Assistance Plus**

- **Medical evacuation to a facility that is able to properly treat their condition**
  - **Bob pays $16,000**
  - **George pays $0**

- **Medical specialists to monitor their care**
  - **Bob pays $400**
  - **George pays $0**

- **Travel assistance to bring a loved one to their bedside**
  - **Bob pays $1,100**
  - **George pays $0**

- **A driver to drive their car/RV back home since they are unable to drive**
  - **Bob pays $1,800**
  - **George pays $0**

**George’s Total:** **$0**

Bob does not

- **Bob pays $1,100**
- **Bob pays $1,800**
- **Bob’s Total: $19,300!**

**Emergency Assistance Plus** is an emergency medical transportation service that goes beyond health and travel insurance. It covers expenses for medical transportation, medical evacuation and travel and companion assistance — services that your insurance usually does NOT pay for.

You must call **EA+** during your emergency so **EA+** can make the arrangements for you.

**This is only an outline of the plan’s features. Please read your Member Benefit Guide carefully to understand all the services available to you, as well as any terms, conditions and limitations.**

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