Greetings! Well the year is half over and it has been a good six months except the membership picture looks really bad. As of this writing the department is number fifty of fifty-five departments. Bret Watson is doing a great job, as are the division commanders and most of the district commanders, as are many of the posts. Some are found lacking however.

We just completed a revitalization of the 8th district where we transferred 26 members from headquarters post to posts of the district. Bret and I have said we would like to do two district revitalizations per month so please schedule them for us. We will both be there if our schedule permits.

During the revitalization of the 8th district we also called all the 2018 members who have not renewed their membership with great results. Many stated they would mail in their dues soon. I suggest to all post commanders that you contact all 2018 members who have not renewed.

It is with regrets that I must report that Charlie Baker, past 4th division commander and Charlie Phillips, past 20th district commander, transferred to the post everlasting since our last newsletter. Both will be missed by many.

I appreciate the effort everyone is putting into the survival of their posts. I know it’s not an easy job and is sometimes difficult to get members to volunteer to help. I also congratulate those posts that have reached or exceeded goal. I suggest that now is the time to start looking and mentoring those members who will make good commanders of the future. We need officers who will not only wear the cap and hold the title but who will do the job. Being a “good ole boy” is not the only qualification needed.

I wish you all God speed and great success. If I can help please call or E-mail me.

God bless the American Legion and the United States of America.

Lloyd O. Buckmaster
Department Commander
2018-2019
Chaplain’s Corner

2019 is off to a good start when you look at some of our Posts, Districts and Divisions. I cannot help but think the fact that we start and end all our meetings with prayer works to our benefit! Have some newcomers to the top 10 so things are being shaken up! With the new programs from National and the Buddy Calls etc, our Legion Family could/should be growing left and right. It is all about being a people driven program and from this Chaplain’s viewpoint, I see a wonderful opportunity to touch friends from the past and to make friends for the future. Please remember that our programs across the board are designed to help our veterans and their families...and make a difference in our communities.

Thank you to all who helped with prayers at our Mid-Winter gathering. We are so blessed to have volunteers who step up and help out. Chaplain Harvey Klee and his wife Suzanne were true gifts to this Chaplain and again, I realized what an asset he is to our Texas Legion family! Please share any other special ceremonies your Legion family undertakes... we all grow when we share ideas.

Remember we have a Chaplain of the Year award and our trips across the Lonestar state offer many examples of men and women who should be considered!

Pray for me and I will pray for you!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Chaplain Gerry Hince
Department Chaplain 2018-2019
www.texaschaplains.org

Twenty and Four Society

The 20-4 is the Honor Society for female veterans. In the state of Texas, the number of female Legionnaires is growing daily but our Echelon (fancy name for state level group... similar to a Chapter) currently has less than 40 members. Some of them are even from other states so we are really not doing a good recruiting job!

The purpose of the 20-4 is to celebrate and to educate all on the roles of females in our military and to share information on our past, our present and the future of our sisters in arms. Some groups across the nation sponsor job fairs and information programs and all share a sense of sistership and leadership.

We need your help to make these goals become real in the Lonestar State. What would you like to see being done for our female veterans? How do you see the 20-4 working with and for our female veterans? How could this leadership group help your Legion career?

Feed me your thoughts...I am the Director of Nation and of Texas so make me work!

Gerry Hince
Hince57@msn.com
817 266-6893
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 Microsoft Word format (.doc, .docx) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf).

• Give your article a Headline and save with a proper file name so we can easily recognize it.

• Be clear 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!
On January 5th the 4th District held its oratorical contest at Waterbrook Bible Fellowship Church in Wylie Texas. There were two participants, Micah Sanders, a junior from Rockwall Heath High School who was sponsored by the Rockwall Post, and Jacob Reese, a senior from Canton High School who was sponsored by the West Tawakoni Post.

Judging the contest was Judge Andrew Bench, Mike McCandliss and Mark Thomson the Department Sergeant at Arms. The contestants did an outstanding job and spoke to the many aspects of the constitution. Jacob Reese spoke about the right to vote in his prepared speech and Micah spoke about American civic duties in her prepared speech.

In the end it was Jacob Reese who won the contest and will receive a $500 scholarship. He will also be heading to the 1st Division contest to compete for a $750 scholarship.

Bonham Veterans

ALP243 hosted Bonham veterans to fish fry and games (pool) after escort by Legion Riders to post (accompanied by local police and firefighters).

This annual event is hosted by all four Legion families in our third year.
The Royse City American Legion Post celebrated its inaugural Tri-County Hero Award, naming Bruce Chim as the first recipient of the recognition. The award was conceived to recognize those unsung heroes who go above and beyond in the community. They must have served in the military or be a first responder. Chim is a member of the U.S. Army and is currently stationed in Ft. Hood but resides in Royse City since he is about to retire from the military.

His story starts out many years ago as a child when he escaped the horrors of the Cambodian genocide of the 1970’s under the Khmer Rouge a radical regime under despot Pol Pot. Under this regime it is estimated that 2 million people were killed although no one knows for sure just how many were killed. Bruce spent approximately 6 years traveling from refugee camp to refugee camp until he found himself in America.

Bruce made the determination at the age of 17 to join the U.S. Army. He was part of the 2003 invasion of Iraq. This was the same campaign that post adjutant Jason Castleberry was a part of. In fact they spent time at the same bases during the same 2003-2004 deployment. “We were both experiencing some of the same experiences but from a different perspective.” Jason said “He had such a different path than myself, but we ended up at the same point with the same mission. Now more than 10 years later we are here in Rockwall/Royse City area talking about it.”

Anytime we have a chance to honor a service member or veteran for what they do for others is something we cherish. We want to thank our sponsor the CGH Realty team for being the January sponsor.
A lot of people like to joke about sex, but it’s uncomfortable for most parents to talk about it to their children. It’s so easy to avoid talking about the “birds and the bees” because we’ve abdicated our parental responsibility to the public school system to educate our children about sex. We’ve trusted the teachers to provide sex education in a responsible way.

Unfortunately, our trust has been violated and parents have been betrayed. The sex ed curriculum in many of our Texas public schools has gone way too far. Although Texas state laws have been enacted to protect our children from inappropriate teachings, those laws are being broken because there is no penalty for breaking the laws. Consequently, the laws are not being enforced, and because schools are not being held accountable for their irresponsibility, such lawlessness has become more pervasive in our Texas schools.

Sex ed instruction has become so promiscuous that it has the same harmful effects as pornography. The facts and figures prove that irresponsible teaching of sex is a major reason why more and more students end up being damaged by the teaching, both emotionally and physically. Not only are families heartbroken, but the negative impact to society can be devastating.

It is understandable why we haven’t realized this is happening because the organization that is infiltrating our schools to “indoctrinate” our students is the same organization that is trying to capitalize on its harmful effects. So, it’s no wonder why some school boards and administrations go to great lengths trying to keep parents from knowing about it. However, our Texas legislators and concerned citizens recently became enlightened about the corrupt teaching. On January 16, an eye-opening briefing was presented at the State Capitol by the Protect Texas Children Coalition, led by Patrick Von Dohlen of Texas Family. Visit https://sanantoniofamilyassociation.com where a web link is posted to view the briefing.) Not uncommon during the presentations were gasps of disbelief by the audience as they learned some of the disgusting things being taught to students at a very young age, things that The American Legion was founded to protect children and youth against.

“Children & Youth” is one of the four pillars upon which The American Legion was founded. The Americanism Commission’s Children & Youth Committee is the center of the Legion’s youth-support efforts. Among its many purposes, the Committee is designed to:

- Improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home.
- Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.
- Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services of and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth.

Literature published about our fourth pillar affirms, “The Legion strongly supports traditional family values, assistance for at-risk children, and activities that promote their healthy and wholesome development. While there is no way of knowing what issues will face our youth tomorrow, our survival may well depend on the quality of care, education and training that we, as parents and citizens, provide for young people today.”

How prophetic! When that quote was made in the past, one of the unknown issues of “tomorrow” has become known today. That issue facing today’s youth is the corrupt sex education in public schools. Indeed, our survival may well depend on the quality education and training that we, as parents and citizens ... and as Legionnaires... demand for young people today.

On the Children & Youth page of the National HQ web site, it states, “The American Legion has been a strong advocate for children and youth since its inception. This steadfast dedication has never wavered and continues to be a driving force on behalf of children across the country today.” May all Legionnaires continue to be that driving force on behalf of children, especially in the great state of Texas!
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100th Anniversary Order Form

The American Legion is fast approaching 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.

Thank you for ensuring that The American Legion remains the most powerful voice in America on behalf of veterans, servicemembers, their families, and communities across the nation.

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George pays $0

Bob does not pay anything.

**Bob pays $16,000**

Bob pays $400

Bob pays $1,100

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Bob’s Total: $19,300!

What happens next?

Both require

George’s Total: $0

Bob’s Total: $19,300!

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**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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