



THE LEGION TIMES

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Department of Texas

March 2015 • Volume 96, Issue 8



CONTENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Message from the Commander | 1 |
| Proclamation from the Mayor of San Antonio | 2 |
| Fred's Focus | 4 |
| National PUFL Application Processing Change | 5 |

Do you have an article or announcement for The Legion Times?

If so, please send all submissions to times@txlegion.org by the 20th of every month and it will appear in the following issue

Message from the Commander

Greetings,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the Posts in the great state of Texas that participated in the Oratorical Contests this year. It is necessary for the Posts to work this program so that there are contestants to compete at the district and the division levels. Each level gives these students the experience they need to compete at the department and national levels. I appreciate all of the Districts that held contests and all 4 of the Divisions. The Department Contest went very smoothly and the contestant from the 1st Division will be competing at the National Contest in April.



I was able to attend the Washington Conference despite the weather conditions in D.C. Commander Helm's testimony before the Veterans Affairs Committee was impressive. I am grateful that I was given this opportunity.

Spring conventions are starting up. All of the odd numbered Districts will be electing new officers. I cannot stress to you enough the importance of these positions. We need capable, hard workers to take these positions. If you only want to wear a blue and white cap and do not plan on furthering the legacy of the American Legion please do not run for office. I sincerely hope that all of the district and division conventions provide training. Our members need to stay informed and training is the best way to get the word out.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend as many of the district conventions this year as I would like to due to the scheduling of 8 conventions on one week-end and 6 on another week-end. However, I hope all of you have productive and successful District and Division Conventions.

Baseball season is here again and it does not look like we are off to a good start. This is one of the most recognized programs that the American Legion offers and Texas Posts are not working it. If you do not have the funds I suggest that two or three post work together to support a team or ask for corporate donations. There are many talented young men who cannot afford to play "select ball". Let's get them signed up for American Legion baseball. Please contact our Department Baseball Chairman for suggestions or assistance.

*For God and Country,
Lynn*

THE LEGION TIMES
VOLUME 96, ISSUE 8
MARCH 2015

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The Legion Times assumes no
responsibility for material
submitted and reserves the right to
edit any submissions.

Editorial deadline is the 20th of every
month for inclusion in the following
month's issue.

Subscription is included in the annual
American Legion, Department of Texas
dues. Contact the American Legion,
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or copies for non-legionnaires.

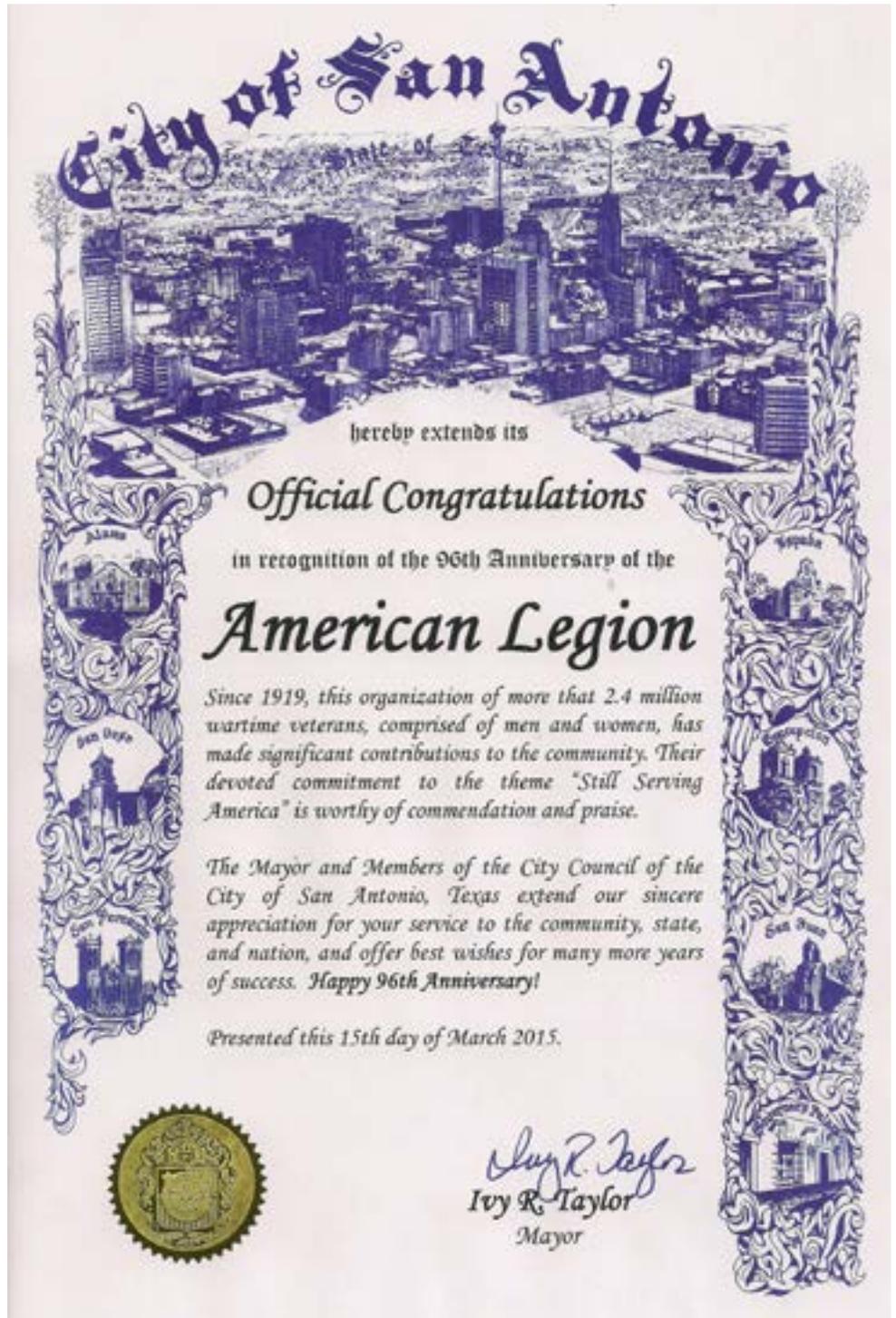
The Legion Times
is the official publication of the
American Legion Department of Texas
Member of:
American Legion Press Association
Texas American Legion Press Assoc.
Texas Press Association.

The Legion Times is published online
12 times a year by the American
Legion, Department of Texas

Proclamation from the Mayor of San Antonio

The Mayor of the City of San Antonio issues a Proclamation in observance of the 96th American Legion Birthday to honor The American Legion and all the Legionnaires, past and present.

The American Legion, Department of Texas held their first caucus meeting in the City of San Antonio in 1919.



2014-2015 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Lynn Sparks, Department Commander
Fred Rogers, Department Vice Commander
Jim Prendergast, National Executive Committeeman
C. W. Sparks, Alternate National Executive Committeeman
William West, Department Adjutant
Cheryl Williams, Department Chaplain
Walter Ivie, Department Treasurer
Steve Watkins, Department Judge Advocate
Cyndi Miller, Department Historian
Terry Bigley, Department Sergeant-at-Arms
Glen Scott, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
James Fleming, Immediate Past Department Commander
Michael Simon, Director of Internal Affairs
Edward Reyes, Department Service Officer
Michael Lacy, Department Service Officer
Renee Monczynski, Department Service Officer
Donald Bridschge, Department Service Officer

DIVISION COMMANDERS

Tom Kelly, 1st Division Commander
John Hince, 2nd Division Commander
Lloyd Buckmaster, 3rd Division Commander
Roger Folmar, 4th Division Commander

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Lerory Anderson, 1st District Commander
Glenda Simon, 2nd District Commander
John Brewer, 3rd District Commander
Terry Cloninger, 4th District Commander
Gary Smith, 5th District Commander
Billy Winter, 6th District Commander
Ed Jarvis, 7th District Commander
Joey Garamillo, 8th District Commander
Jerry Kubala, 9th District Commander
Steve Miller, 10th District Commander
Sandy Kousman, 11th District Commander
Joe Page, 12th District Commander
Ken Horn, 13th District Commander
Ricardo Hankerson, 14th District Commander
Harlan Lucas, 15th District Commander
Phillip Westerman, 16th District Commander
Bret Watson, 17th District Commander
John Overton, 18th District Commander
Ralph Langley, 19th District Commander
Robert Masten, 20th District Commander
Charlie Baker, 21st District Commander
Juan Torres, Jr., 22nd District Commander
Jerome Iltis, 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 simple guidelines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf). **Save your file as the name of the article, so we can 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.
- Please include any photos and/or artwork for articles *separately* (NOT embedded in your text file) 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, 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 program.

- **E-mail everything directly to us at 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!

Fred's Focus

Message from the Vice Commander

The spring season officially arrives in just a few days. With spring comes many exciting events and in The American Legion one of the events that takes place is our annual elections in the Posts, every other year in the Districts and annual elections in the Divisions and Department.

In the Constitution & By-Law's of each of the intermediate bodies you will find all of the details on how these elections are to be held, when they are to be held and what officers are to be elected. If the Post Constitution & By-Law's are up to date and have followed the template provided by the Department a Post typically will have nine officers.

One of the topics our Department Training committee presents is "Post Officer Duties & Responsibilities". This is done for a good reason - to ensure that everyone is knowledgeable of what the duties and responsibilities are before they are elected as an Officer. Another good resource before running for a position is to have graduated from the American Legion Extension Institute course.

Let's take a very brief look at each Post officer position and the responsibility related to that position.

Commander – presides at all meetings, has general supervision over the business and affairs of the Post, assures that the Constitution & By-Law's are observed and perform other duties as directed by the Post.

Vice Commander – in the absence of the Post Commander shall perform those duties and be fully involved in, and responsible for, all aspects of Post Membership.

Adjutant – keeps a complete record of all Post meetings and maintain all records.

Finance Officer – have charge of all finances

Judge Advocate – supply professional advice or retain proper counsel

Historian – maintain the individual records and incidents of the Post

Chaplain – spiritual welfare of the Post members

Sergeant at Arms – preserve order at meetings, in charge of the Post Colors

Service Officer – comply with the Service Officers manual, Officers Guide and Post Administrative Manual.

In addition to your Post Constitution & By Law's more details of each position and the corresponding responsibility can be found in the Officers Guide & Manual of Ceremonies, Post Administrative Manual and Adjutants Manual. These are all available online at txlegion.org under Forms & Publications.

Everyone is encouraged to study these publications and discover a position where you would like to serve. While serving it is important to be aware that while we are all volunteers when we take on an elected position we take on the duties and responsibilities of that position. Throughout the Department we have a slate of persons that are willing to mentor and help train you in any position.

In The American Legion there is no "stepping thru the chairs" or "it's his/her turn" policy. Our members are "comrades in arms" and while we might have friends that will run for an office - we must not allow our elections to relegate to a "popularity contest". We must, just like in any other election, vote for the persons in which we have the highest confidence will do the job to the best of their ability. It is critically important to our membership growth that we elect capable leaders.

Our elections are followed by the Installation Ceremony at which time all newly elected Officers will take the oath of office which reads in part; "I do solemnly swear...and truly perform the duties of my office, to the best of my ability, so help me God." I'm sure you will agree that is a sobering commitment.

National PUFL Application Processing Change

MEMO: To All Posts Adjutants

MEMO FROM: Jack Querfeld, Director, Internal Affairs Division

SUBJECT: Paid-Up-For-Life Application Processing Change

In January 2014, National Headquarters introduced a new simplified pricing structure for its Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) plan which also included the ability for a member to apply online for lifetime membership. This was done with the intent of simplifying the entire process for the member.

Beginning July 1, 2015, National Headquarters will no longer accept PUFL applications that were previously distributed in bulk to Departments or Posts. This includes any PUFL application reflecting a rate chart with the effective date of October 2009 or earlier.

All PUFL applications must be submitted to National by one of the three methods noted below. We will continue the policy of notifying the Post and Department when a member applies for a lifetime membership; this provides the opportunity for the Post to challenge the application, if necessary.

ONLINE APPLICATION: The member accesses the PUFL page on National's website at www.legion.org/pufl to obtain a rate quote and/or submit an electronic application. Once the rate quote is received, the member can opt to apply online which will cause their record information to appear for confirmation purposes. Once confirmed and the payment information is completed, the member selects the Submit button to complete the application process. **NOTE:** If the member doesn't have internet access, either themselves or through family/friends, this process should be performed by the Post or the Department. A quick link to the PUFL application website has been added to myLegion for Posts and Departments.

PRINTABLE APPLICATION: The member accesses the PUFL page on National's website at www.legion.org/pufl to obtain a rate quote and/or print an application. Once the rate quote is received, the member can opt to print a paper application to complete and mail to National Headquarters. The application will be pre-filled with the member's ID Number, Name, Address, Birth Date and the total cost of the PUFL membership. (If any of the member's information needs to be updated, it can be noted on the application.) The member then simply mails the application and payment to National Headquarters at the address shown on the form. **NOTE:** If the member doesn't have internet access, either themselves or through family/friends, the application should be printed by the Post or the Department and forwarded to the member for completion. A quick link to the PUFL application website has been added to myLegion for Posts and Departments.

CALL A CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST: Any member can speak to one of National's Customer Service Specialists by calling our toll free number at 800-433-3318. They're happy to answer any questions...print and mail a PUFL application...or even take the application over the phone. However, this should not be considered the primary procedure since all members, Posts, and Departments have the same ability.



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Renew your American Legion Membership quickly and easily online!

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DOI-ONLINE-PA-002013

TEXAS LONE STAR RECRUITER PIN

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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!

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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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- ★ **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.
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