Greetings to all.

Another month has gone by and we are all very busy with many things. The Department Legion College has started, spring conventions are starting up, the Legislative conference in Washington D C, and of course, continued membership drives.

I am writing this after driving home from our Oratorical contest. If you have never attended one please plan to do so in the future. Four high school students gave presentations with various views pertaining to our constitution. Each speech hit home and attendees went home better educated as to our rights and privileges and prouder to be an American.

I want to thank everyone who worked at getting participants and helping in different ways to make the contest a huge success.

I wish the winner good luck at the national contest. Legionnaire contest chairperson Barbara Hemmer will attend the national contest in Indianapolis with the state winner Tanner David of the third Division.

Department members held the first of five Department Legion College courses in El Paso earlier this month. The course is great and very educational. I encourage every legionnaire to attend when it is in your area. The course is very educational and is well presented by the department training staff. The only disappointment was the poor attendance.

We are still lagging with membership. Lets continue to do what ever it takes to get members to renew and to sign up new members and 345 transfers. I strongly suggest each post to consider Vice Commander Bret Watsons’ idea to sign up the 2014, 2015 and 2016 members in accordance with national commander Reistads’ promotion. Every post can not only increase their membership, but get $5 for each of those members you sign.

I ask you to not only work diligently on membership but encourage everyone to participate in the Legion programs. Now is the time to work boys state, school awards and look at law enforcer, fireman and EMT of the year.

Thanks for all you do. Let us continue to work hard to make the Texas American Legion bigger and better.

For God and country,
Lloyd O. Buckmaster
Department Commander
2018-2019
Chaplain's Corner

Thank you all for your input on our recent Four Chaplin Service at the Mid-Winter conference. It was made possible by the cooperation of our Past State Chaplain Harvey Klee and his lovely wife who made all the AV aides. In addition, the Chaplains of our ALA and SAL participated and our Junior were super lighters of the candles. Teamwork is the key to success in any organization and the Legion is no different. I discovered that my Post is no different from any other Posts in that most have not, if ever, celebrated the Four Chaplain ceremony. If you need ANY help, all you have to do is ask! Hopefully, next year, the room will be full!

Springtime is right around the corner so I hope you are getting ready to get out and share in our love of God and country. Our Texas Legion has so many great programs that we are truly blessed. Take advantage of the baseball programs, the junior shooting programs, plan for Memorial Day and get ready to do Boys State! Remember...for God and country is across the board and a prayer at each event is the way to go! WE SET THE PACE!

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

WHAT IS THAT I AM HEARING - PLAY BALL!

That is the sound we are hearing as the baseball season is now starting. Teams are starting to prepare for this season.

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's 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. Go the American Legion Department of Texas web site under programs select Baseball it will give the information you should need.

https://txlegion.org/programs/baseball

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.

Our contact information: Don Toohey ddt2e@rocketmail.com
Baseball Committee Member Cyndi Miller Cmiller23@live.com
Baseball Director Frank Barnes frank.barnes@outlook.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 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!
SAN ANTONIO – (Feb. 17, 2019) Legionnaire Willie Foster, 96, the oldest member of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 was recognized for his service during the annual Miss Black San Antonio Scholarship Pageant held at the Carver Community Cultural Center.

Born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1922, Foster served in the U.S. Army from 1942 – 1946 during WWII.

Before enlisting, he graduated from Wheatley High School in San Antonio and attended Cuney Elementary and Douglas Middle Schools.

After his discharge from the Army at the rank of sergeant (quartermaster), he worked on Fort Sam Houston Army Base as a furniture mover. He then began working at Kelly Air Field in 1952. He then began working as a male nurse at the Fort Sam Houston Hospital.

Foster is a Prince Hall Freemason with Star Tom Lodge No. 100, a life member of Moussa Temple No. 106 (Prince Hall Shriners), and a deacon with Mount Sinai Baptist Church.

Foster stated that it felt great to be recognized. “This was a tremendous gift,” said Foster to more than 400 guests in attendance. “Not only for myself but as a representative of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828.”

The Miss Black San Antonio Scholarship Pageant is a paramount showcase and production, described as the Dynamics of Pageantry Competition Training, that is offered to career-oriented young African-American females.

The contestants represented include college-bound students, vocational skills trainees, or military-based enlistees who display a stellar performance in modeling, talent, and public speaking.

The winner will receive financial assistance to pursue their career goals and free hair salon services for a year, and will serve as the Goodwill Ambassador for the Greater San Antonio Community for a year.
“To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars”

During the First World War, French boxcars carried American Doughboys to the front. These wartime boxcars, which held either 40 men or 8 horses, were emblazoned with a “40/8”; a symbol readily understood by American veterans of that era. The boxcars were also used during the Second World War and afterwards repurposed for a spectacular demonstration of gratefulness from the people of France. It was called the Train de la Reconnaissance Française" or simply the “Gratitude Train”.

In February 1949 the American Legion Department of Texas, the 40 & 8 Grand Voiture du Texas and many others welcomed the Texas Merci Boxcar which was part of the French Gratitude Train of 1949. Hundreds of gifts from the people of France came in the boxcar. Some items were distributed out to children at an orphanage in San Antonio and others distributed throughout Texas. A moderate selection of the gifts is stored in the Briscoe Museum of Military History in Austin, Texas and the Texas Merci Boxcar itself was put under the care of the 40 & 8. For 70 years the boxcar has been cared for by members of the Grand du Texas and was housed at American Legion Travis Post 76 until 2014 when it was moved into the Great Hall of the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas. Laden with 40 provincial coats of arms from the historic regions of France in 1949, the Texas Merci Boxcar is a popular exhibit at the museum, and all are encouraged to see it whenever possible.

Voyageurs Militaire and Dames came from all around Texas (over 2,500 miles travelled) to attend the 70th Anniversary of the Texas Merci Boxcar. In 1950 the Grand Voiture du Texas met for the 1st annual pilgrimage and thought they should do this each year. As they have done since 1950 members of the Forty & Eight veterans organization held their Annual Pilgrimage here in Austin. This year is the 70th Annual Pilgrimage held!

Little fanfare surrounded their memorial service where they read off the names of members who passed over the last 12 months. Their dedication should be noted as nearly all members of this organization travel at their own expense. For more information about the boxcar or 40 & 8 in Texas visit their website at:

[www.texasboxcar.org](http://www.texasboxcar.org)
Celebrating our 100th Anniversary of the American Legion of Texas

LAPEL PIN...............................$4.00
COIN.....................................$8.00
Garrison Cap Bag..................$8.00
Garment Bag.........................$20.00
Garrison Cap Bag..$8.00

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Mail to : American Legion PO Box 140527 Austin, TX. 78714

Check or money order also accepted
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.

Simply go to smile.amazon.com, sign into your normal Amazon account and then type in “American Legion Charities Inc” in the search box when the prompt comes up. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

American Legion Charities Inc

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Public Foundations

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www.legion.org/renew

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.

Go to www.legion.org/renew
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?

They call 9-1-1 and are admitted to the hospital

Both require

**Medical evacuation to a facility that is able to properly treat their condition**

George pays $0

Bob pays $16,000

**Medical specialists to monitor their care**

George pays $0

Bob pays $400

**Travel assistance to bring a loved one to their bedside**

George pays $0

Bob pays $1,100

**A driver to drive their car/RV back home since they are unable to drive**

George pays $0

Bob pays $1,800

George’s Total: $0

Bob’s Total: $19,300!

Emergency Assistance Plus® Program
From Your American Legion Department

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.

Learn more about how you can be protected by EA+. Call today to speak with a customer service representative at 1-888-310-1547. Or to apply online, visit www.thell.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus
Choose the medical alert service that has saved more lives than any other

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Lifeline offers a range of choices to help you maintain your independence. Whether you need the go-anywhere protection of **GoSafe** or the peace of mind offered by **HomeSafe**, Lifeline has you covered.

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With your everyday purchases, you can help support The American Legion. Get The American Legion USAA Rewards™ American Express® Credit Card and take advantage of:

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*Offer subject to approval. As of 12/1/15, regular APRs on purchases, cash advances and balance transfers are 10.99% to 25.99%, depending on your credit history and other factors. APRs vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. There is a transaction fee of 3% on cash advances (2200 maximum on each balance transfer and each convenience check) and 1% on foreign transactions. Rates and fees subject to change. If you transfer a balance or write a convenience check with this offer, all purchases will be charged interest until you pay the entire balance in full, including any transferred/convenience check balances. After that, you will have a grace period on purchases when you pay your entire statement balance each month by the payment due date. Earn 1 point for every $1 in purchases plus 1 additional point on every $1 in purchases that the merchant properly codes as gas and grocery purchases. Grocery purchases at warehouses, discount stores, department stores or other non-grocery store locations are not eligible for the additional 1 point reward. Rewards points terminate if account is closed or delinquent or program ends. Other restrictions apply. USAA Rewards Program terms and conditions will be provided with your card. Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for, or membership to, USAA property and casualty insurance companies. American Express is a federally registered service mark of American Express and is used by USAA Savings Bank pursuant to a license. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship.

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