March was a month of celebrations, traveling to Benbrook for the Son of the American Legion Commander Steve Slaughter’s Homecoming. What a wonderful night of festivities, and a good time was had by all in attendance. On to Lufkin for a retirement reception for Lucy Burris volunteer at the Lufkin Out-Patient Clinic. She has served as a clinic volunteer for 6 years. We wish her well and will continue to pray for her and husband daily. And the final Veteran Affairs Medical Center tours on March 15 & 16, 2012. The month has been filled with American Legion Birthday celebration all across the state of Texas. The American Legion Auxiliary sends 93 celebration wishes. HAPPY BIRTHDAY. And we celebrate The American Legion’s birthday with Lubbock Post 575 the evening of March 28, 2012.

"A grateful and heartfelt Nation, Thanks you and Happy Birthday to every Veteran *

On April 16-21, 2012, Texas will welcome Ride 2 Recovery for the 4th. year. Chairman Marty Peters, Auxiliary Vice President, has been busy organizing and preparing this year’s event. She reports, we are on target and things are coming together. The ride will starting in San Antonio at the Intrepid Center, to San Marcos, Austin, Killeen, Waco, Cleburne and Arlington. On Sunday morning, there will be a “Honor Ride” in Memory of Clay Hunt. Send your donations to the ALA Department office earmarked Ride 2 Recovery. Every Unit and Post are asked to participate and support this event, by making a donation, volunteering or welcoming the riders to Texas. With your support and assistance Texas will have another successful Ride 2 Recovery event. Any and all assistance is greatly appreciated. We look forwarding to seeing you alone the route.

Texas Laws Benefit Texas Veterans-
1. Texas recently passed legislation that affects our Veterans. A Texas Veteran can now request their branch of service insignia be placed on their driver’s license. When renewing your driver’s license you will need to take your honorable discharged or any proof of military connected service records with you.

2. If a service person enters the service of our country with outstanding moving traffic violations, those violations will be placed on hold while they are serving our country. If the service person is home on leave and they are stopped by law enforcement, they will not be arrested. The service person is still responsible for the violations as soon as they return to the private sector.

More information on both of these laws can be found at www.dps.gov or contact Richard Stanifer 281-517-1200.

The Auxiliary continues our work to achieve Commander Lupe’s Texas challenge of 100% in membership. The Auxiliary met and exceeded our 85% membership target date and we are now actively working toward 90%. Thank you for helping us achieve our goal.

For God & Country
Mary Waddell, Auxiliary President
Celebrating Our Veterans & Freedom by Honoring Their Service
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.

Odessa – April 28, 2012 at American Legion Post 430
Dallas / Fort Worth – May 19, 2012 at American Legion Post 511
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.
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!
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.
After careful consideration of 8 well qualified candidates the Boy Scout chairman and his selection committee selected Sterling Hall of Sonora Texas as the Eagle Scout of the Year for the State of Texas.

Hall (18) who is eligible through the legion membership of his paid up for life Grandfather Robert Tench of Post 208 in Kerrville.

Hall has been a scout since November of 2000, and has earned 35 merit badges.

Halls Eagle Scout project was to purchase a life size (5 foot tall) bronze Bronco monument statue. To be placed at the entrance of the community. It took 43 businesses and individual donations to raise the $2745.00 to purchase the monument. Hall coordinated with the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), the City of Sonora, and the Sonora School District for support of the project. After determining that the monument required a pedestal to be set upon, numerous contractors stalled and changed their bids to complete the project. After numerous delays and rebids the project was completed and is a beautiful welcome of visitors who enter Sonora from the South.

Hall has a desire to attend one of the United States Service Academy’s. In the desire to further is education.

In his application for his consideration Hall received numerous letters of support and endorsement for his consideration as The Eagle Scout of the Year. With this award Hall will receive a $500.00 scholarship from the Department of Texas, a $300.00 scholarship from the Past District Commanders Club, and his application is forwarded to American Legion National to be the applicant for the Eagle Scout of the Year for the state of Texas at the national level.
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
2012 TEXAS CHALLENGE

APRIL 16 – 21

SAN ANTONIO
SAN MARCOS
AUSTIN
KILLEEN/FT HOOD
WACO
CLEBURNE
ARLINGTON

Extra Special:
SUNDAY, APR 22
HONOR RIDE – Clay Hunt
THE RANGER BASEBALL STADIUM

- Be along their route
- Cheer them on – wave a flag
- Shake their hand – hold a sign
- Let them know we care – bring a banner
  - See them off or Welcome them in
  - Go to the evening benefit dinner
  - Send Funds to donate towards the expenses and extra goes to R2R

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION – R2R is Poppy Funds approved

If this isn't why The American Legion, the ALA & the SAL exist – then what is???

Contact ALA VP Marty for details 817-475-2885 or your local host post
The Bellville American Legion Post 115 held their annual Awards Banquet and American Legion Birthday Party on March 8, 2012. Receiving awards for First Responders were Jason Gains Austin County EMS, Kevin Bellville from Bellville Police Department, and Desmond Anderson from the Bellville Fire Department. Assisting in handing out the awards is Department of Texas American Legion Lupe Garza, Weldon Haevischer Post Commander, and Bill Farrell Adjutant.

**Legion Birthday Cake Cut**

*From left to right Post 115 Officers Harold Remmert, Department of Texas Commander Lupe Garza, Zack Hicks, Jim Strickland, Jerry Machac, Gary Grawunder, Ed Randloph, Milford Gross, Bill Farrell, and Post Commander Weldon Haevischer.*

**First Responders**

*From left to right Post 115 Officers Harold Remmert, Department of Texas Commander Lupe Garza, Zack Hicks, Jim Strickland, Jerry Machac, Gary Grawunder, Ed Randloph, Milford Gross, Bill Farrell, and Post Commander Weldon Haevischer.*

**Group Photo**

*From left to right Members receiving membership awards are Lonnie Heflin 30 yrs, Barney Shows 20 yrs Commander Garza, Allen Garling 40 yrs, Bud Cain Jr. 15 yrs. Standing are members of the post.*
THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST (LIT)
Over Four Decades of Partnership for a Healthy America
Your Single Benefits Source for
All Department Insurance Plans
Do not buy Insurance until you learn about the
full range of high-value plans negotiated for you by the LIT!

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.

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.

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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
The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced the following changes to plot and burial allowances. Effective Oct 1, 2011, burial and plot benefits are increased from $300 to $700 for:

- Burial reimbursement for Veterans who died while properly hospitalized by the VA, and
- Plot reimbursement for Veterans who are entitled to receive compensation or pension benefits, or are otherwise eligible for a plot allowance.

The increased rate applies for deaths occurring on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

Beginning the fiscal year 2013, the burial and plot allowances may be increased annually based upon the Consumer Price Index for the proceeding 12-month period. The first opportunity for such an annual increase is Oct. 1, 2012.

The term “properly hospitalized by the VA” includes facilities in which the deceased was properly admitted for hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care by the VA.

There is no increase in the burial allowance for indigent Veterans or Veterans who are not hospitalized by the VA at the time of death.
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**