Message from the Auxiliary President

May is poppy month for the American Legion Auxiliary. The month we all stop and remember the men and women that have given the ultimate sacrifice, the men and women that sacrificed their future for the future of our freedoms. It is such a simple token – a red paper memorial poppy (made by veterans) to wear but it is a huge symbol. There is never a wrong day to distribute a poppy... there is never a wrong day to wear a poppy. Wearing that poppy tells the world that you remember – wearing a poppy tells everyone around you that you appreciate those sacrifices – wearing a poppy conveys that The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion stand by and stand for the military men and women of both yesterday and today. You know that funds collected are designated only for helping veterans & their families in need As you make plans to help your city commemorate Memorial Day, be sure those plans include the poppy as the traditional flower, “Flower Power” if I may, truly a powerful image but only if all of us allow the poppy to be all that it can and should be this Memorial Day and this month of May.

We all pray and share sorrow with the victims of Boston and of our own community of West. ALA, TAL and SAL are organizing donations of funds, clothing & household items. Just call ALA headquarters to ask how you can help in this effort for our members, veterans and the community.

We also celebrate Armed Forces Day this month. A great opportunity to present Blue Star Banners, a great opportunity to allow veterans to proclaim the branch of service in which they served – and a chance to ask them to join us in our efforts to advocate for and protect the rights of veterans.

(continued p.2)
Mothers Day is our chance to honor our Moms in May. If your mother is still with you, join me in honoring all her sacrifices from our childhood; through our youth; into adulthood and still there - in our hearts always! Lady Legionnaires, Happy Mothers Day to each of you! Thank you for all you are.

Division Conventions begin in May. I look forward to seeing all of you as I attend them. El Paso, Fort Worth, Willis and Corpus Christi – I will be watching for y’all on the highways... be sure to honk and wave if you love veterans – Wow, wouldn’t that make a great bumper sticker!

At the Post, Squadron and Unit level we have elections this month but even though we choose our new leaders for the 13-14 year, don’t forget there are still 8 months of membership for the 2013 year and we still need renewals and new members for the current year – all of us: TAL, ALA and SAL. Let’s realize it is CRUNCH time and we need MOUNDS of members to reach the sweet success of 100% for all of our organizations – please make an extra effort this month to reach out.

National ALA is testing in 5 nationwide sites - an advertising campaign to tell the public who & what is the American Legion Auxiliary. San Antonio is one of the sites and the commercials will be airing late April and early May along with some magazine and radio ads. Be on the lookout – maybe you’ll see some people you recognize. It will focus on bringing in volunteers to work ALA programs.

My song for May is “TO THE LEGIONNAIRES” written in 1929 as Texas’ song. Written by Dan Laning of Beeville, (published in an old songbook called Legion Airs) and some of the lyrics are: “Days gone by you and I served in the ranks of our country. Out of it grew Legionnaires true – still serving their country, their own buddies, too. Legionnaires, We’re proud of you - Proud of the things you Veterans do. Legionnaires, whate’er you do, Live to the standards you’ve set, tried and true. Helping the widow, the orphan, the maimed, building in charity, not seeking fame...Memories that never can die; Sealed with our blood, for the country we love. Legionnaires fight, do or die!”

Serving with a Song in my Heart, in the Spirit of Service not Self
For God and Country,
Marty Peters
2012 – 2013 State President
American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas
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). 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!
Each year at the Department’s Annual Convention an award is made to the “Chaplain of the Year.” Only Post Chaplains are eligible to receive the award and their applications need be in to the Department Adjuvant at least 30 days prior to the Convention. This year the Department Annual Convention will be in Irving, Texas and will run from Tuesday, July 9, through Sunday, July 14. That means Chaplain of the Year Award applications need be received by the Department no later than June 9, 2013.

The Post Administrative Manual, Department website and the Texas Chaplains Association website all contain information as to the form that need be filled out, instructions and the general procedure to be followed for award consideration.

Since the award is only available to Post Chaplains, the Department program precludes District and Division Chaplains from consideration – unless of course they are also serving as Post Chaplains but then, only their Post Chaplain activities will be considered.

To rectify this, the Texas Chaplains Association has adopted an informal recognition awards program by way of a Texas Chaplains Association Chaplains Award “In Recognition of Outstanding Service as Chaplain, District X” or “Division X” as the case may be. A Recognition Award plaque will be made up on behalf of the recipient and presented to the candidate at the Department’s Annual Convention.

Needless to say, but I’ll say it anyway, no officer or member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Chaplains Association will be eligible to receive this award.

The recipient of this year’s award has already been selected but their name will be withheld until the Annual Convention when it will be presented to them.

Since this is a new program of the TCA, please it in mind for next year’s Award consideration and for the following years as well.

The submission procedure is pretty straightforward: Have the District or Division Commander or President (Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L. members are all eligible) send a letter or e-mail to me at hklee@ctesc.net as President of the TCA naming the individual you wish considered, together with as complete an explanation as you can as to why that individual should be so recognized to receive the award. The information will be passed along to the TCA Board of Directors who will make the final decision. Candidates need not be members of the TCA but we sure wish they would be.

This is a great way to acknowledge those who contribute so much to the success of our respective organizations yet so often go unheralded. I’d appreciate your feedback on the new TCA Award program.

On a sadder note, it seems this term has experienced several losses of outstanding Legion past Department, Division and District Officers: Patsy Palmquist, Steve “Shooter” Brooks, Robert Hester, Clayton Hueske, Walter Bull, Martha Folmar, Cal Gruetzmacher, C. Jim Ray, and John Brukner as of this writing. A special Post-Everlasting Joint Memorial Service is planned for the Department Annual Convention in Irving commemorating them and others who have now gone to their rest.

“I expect to pass through this world but once. If, therefore, there is any kindness I can do to any fellow-being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

May the Lord bless your day and all the days to follow.

Harvey H. Klee
Department Chaplain, 2012-2013
www.texaschaplains.org
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I do not know what my status will be for the Department Convention in Arlington or the National Convention in Houston so a mail order will be the easiest way to get these Convention Trading Pins to you.

Post 572 thanks you for your continued support.

Ron Bell
Adjutant

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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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Members of the Harold L. Gregory Memorial Post and Unit 626 hosted an excellent event including dinner, an impressive array of dignitaries and the presentation of a proclamation declaring March 30, 2013, Welcome Home Vietnam War Veterans Day in the City of Fort Worth.

The Lone Star Squadron, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps from Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base posted the colors followed by the National Anthem and program.

Speakers included: Rear Adm. Jim Lair, U.S. Navy (Ret), Lt. Cmdr. Arthur McAvoy, U.S. Navy (Ret), Capt. Robert A. Bennett, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth City Councilman, Col. Dennis Shingleton U. S. Army (ret) and Joe Page, Commander, American Legion 12th District of Texas.

The event was open to all veterans and the hall was filled to capacity. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 626 President (and District Vice President), Tina Hill and her team coordinated a most impressive event that has been included in the official Vietnam War Commemoration website photo gallery http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/fort_worth_texas_march_30_2013/

More event pictures are also posted in our District 12 scrapbook at http://www.kencox.us/scrapbook/20130330post626/

Submitted by Ken Cox, District 12 Historian
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.
AUSTIN: The Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument held its Groundbreaking Ceremonies on March 24th and 25th with a special focus on honoring the 3,417 Texans who died while serving in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War. Two days of events included a Reading of the Names of the Texas war dead, the inaugural display of the Texas Vietnam Heroes Exhibit, and the groundbreaking on the monument site at the state Capitol.

In 2005, the Texas legislature approved the construction of a monument on the grounds of the state Capitol building in Austin to honor Texans who served in the armed forces of this nation during the Vietnam War. The monument will be dedicated in the spring of 2014 on the northeast side of the Capitol near the Peace Officers Memorial.

As part of the groundbreaking ceremonies, more than 110 volunteers participated in a Reading of the Names of 3,417 Texans who died in Vietnam. The event was held at the LBJ Presidential Library and Museum. Among the volunteer readers were President Johnson’s daughters Luci Baines Johnson and Lynda Johnson Robb, several Texas lawmakers, and many veterans and family members of the war dead.

(continued, p 11)
The centerpiece of the groundbreaking ceremony was the dedication for entombment in the monument of a container carrying personalized, hand-embossed dog tags for each Texan who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. An identical set of the tags is displayed in the Texas Vietnam Heroes Exhibit, which debuted in the LBJ Library in conjunction with the Reading of the Names. The exhibit will be on display at the presidential library through July, when it will begin a tour through cities across Texas.

Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument Groundbreaking Ceremony, which included comments by Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst, State Senators Juan Hinojosa and Leticia Van de Putte, State Rep. Wayne Smith, and monument committee chairman Robert Floyd. Texan Joe Galloway delivered the keynote address, and Karoni Forester, Texas State Coordinator of the National League of Families, spoke on behalf of 3,417 Texas families of the war dead. Ms. Forrester’s father is one of 105 Texans who remain missing in action in Vietnam.

The Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument designed by artist Duke Sundt is now in the final stages of production at the Deep in the Heart Art Foundry in Bastrop, Texas. It will be the first on the statehouse grounds to represent the ethnic diversity of Texans and to incorporate digital technology to allow visitors to access a digital “living monument” allowing visitors to hear stories of veterans and learn more about the monument’s symbols.

To learn more about the monument or to donate please visit www.buildthemonument.org.

CONTACT: Cheryl Fries, Media Consultant, 512-657-7880 cfries@arrowheadfilms.com
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,

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