



THE LEGION TIMES

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Department of Texas

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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,

Most of our District Spring Conventions are completed and for the odd numbered districts we will be seeing new faces in command. I hope all of the incoming officers have made a commitment to fulfill the obligations of their respective offices. I will have the honor of installing them at the Department Convention and I am looking forward to the ceremony.



During the month we will be having the four Division Conventions. Unfortunately, I will not be attending the 4th Division Convention as I will be at the National Spring Meetings until May 7th. However, I plan on attending the other three. I hope to see all of you there.

It has come to my attention that there are many Gold Star Families that would like to attend patriotic events that our Posts host. However, they feel that they are not invited or welcome. So as you plan your Memorial Day ceremonies please be sure to include our survivors. For example on your flyers state all veterans and survivors are welcome. The American Legion Family needs to welcome and assist these families like we are known to do.

The 2nd District is hard at work preparing for the State Convention in July in Beaumont. I hope you are planning on attending. Please get your advertisements in as soon as possible. It will be here before you know it.

Boys State is just around the corner. We have 1100 openings this year and I sincerely hope we can fill all of them. The districts should be scheduling their student orientations for this month. Hopefully we will have a good turnout of Legionnaires at the Legion Night program. American Legion Baseball here in Texas is gradually diminishing. Please get your teams signed up so that we can continue to support our young athletes and promote this wonderful program.

For God and Country,
Lynn

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HINTS FROM HINCE

Yes, it is that time of year and reports of all kinds are due. Strongly suggest you sit down with your executive committee or whatever you call the leaders of your Post and lay out who is doing what report and share information and get them done. We have so much great stuff going on in Texas that there is really no reason why we are not blowing our own horns and winning all kinds of awards! AND of course, there is a fact the things like the CPR and certifications are really required!

Let's talk a bit about Consolidated Post Reports...and yes, Public Relations is involved in them because they contain the meat of what we should be sharing with the community!

Sat thru a great class by Training Committee's Mark McClelland on CPR and then the next morning heard the Posts of the District really fill in the blanks of those reports! No excuse for the 9 Posts present not to have their CPR in and full!

HINT: Get with the writers of your CPR and make sure that what you have covered is in the report and make sure you are covering the activities our Legionnaires are doing!

Historians are little known but valuable members of any Post or State staff. These men and women are also invaluable to Public Relations. Check with your Historians on very level and make sure you guys (and gals!) are sharing information and pictures Last month I heard about a lot of things that took place within 2 hours of my house...but were never covered.

HINT: Work with your Historian and commit to one article per month for publication.

TEXALPA and State media awards are coming due. The newspapers, radio stations and television stations in our state are good to veterans. Let's be good to them.

HINT: WE NEVER HAVE COMPETITION IN THE MEDIA AWARDS...shame on us!!!

On a final note, heard some great speakers in April. Folks in New Braunfels need to really use that young Mayor as a spokesman for our Boys State. He credits it with him being where he is and is so excited about it! Port Lavaca also shared COL Mike and his love for veterans with their District convention and both these men are excellent pin up boys for our Legion. Good job Districts in sharing their talents!

God bless
Gerry Hince

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
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Roger Folmar, 4th Division Commander

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Billy Winter, 6th District Commander
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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!

Audie Murphy Days Kicks off May 15th

GREENVILLE, Texas - To honor and remember our nation's military heroes, Audie Murphy Days will kick off Friday, May 15th. The annual two day event, which is free and open to the public, is hosted by the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum to celebrate Audie Leon Murphy, the most decorated combat soldier of World War II, as well as military veterans and those currently serving our country.

Audie Murphy Days, May 15th and 16th, centers on the life of Audie Murphy, a native son of Hunt County, war hero, Hollywood film star and accomplished songwriter. This year's events will consist of a variety of speakers, displays and entertainment. Noted speakers include Dr. David Smith who is publishing a new book on Audie Murphy and Dr. Carolyn Perry who will talk about Audie in relation to the film industry of that era. There will be a panel discussion with a combination of recently published authors on Audie as well as some people who met Audie.

Actress and producer Terry Moore will be our celebrity guest speaker this year. She has starred in 77 feature films and listed among her leading men are such Hollywood legends including Burt Lancaster, John Wayne, Cary Grant, Mickey Rooney, Robert Wagner and, of course, Audie Murphy. Two of her most well-known films include Mighty Joe Young and Come Back Little Sheba in which she received an Academy Award nomination for her role. Terry starred with Audie in Cast a Long Shadow in 1959.

A special "Audie Bus Tour" will be available Friday afternoon for \$5 per person. The tour will take people to various highlights around the County dealing with Audie Murphy. RSVP's will be required ahead of time for this tour as there are a limited number of seats available. A BBQ lunch catered by Ernie's BBQ will also be available on Friday and tickets can be purchased ahead of time for that as well. Tickets for the luncheon will cost \$12 for adults/\$5 for children 5-12 yrs. old.

Friday's events will be held at the Fletcher Warren Civic Center at 5501 Hwy 69 South in Greenville and Saturday's events will begin at the Civic Center but will move to the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum located at 600 I-30 East in Greenville in the afternoon. Doors will open both days at 9:00am with the programs beginning at 10:00am. A regular admission charge of \$6 adults, \$4 seniors and \$2 students will apply to enter the Museum. Re-admittance for the weekend into the Museum will be free. These are just some of the activities taking place.

Contact the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum at (903) 450-4502 or visit the website at www.amacmuseum.com for additional information. Funding for this event is provided in part by the City of Greenville Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax.

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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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