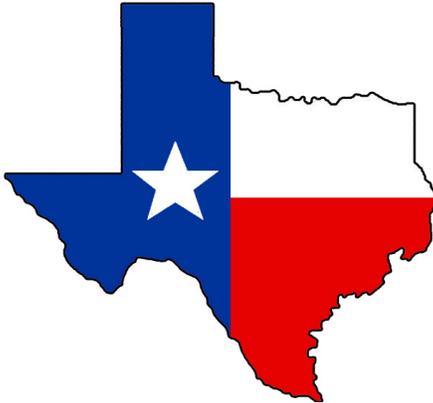




THE LEGION TIMES

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Department of Texas

August 2013 • Volume 95, Issue 1



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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**

From the Bridge

I wish to thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me as your 2013-2014 State Commander. I am going to give you all my efforts, in the hopes that this great state of Texas will again, have a banner year in membership and achieving our program goals. This effort must come from you, the blue hats, who make this great organization run. My theme this year is "Membership Through Knowledge," which is happening throughout this state through our training programs. I hope you will take what you have learned and use it in your everyday post operations.



The national organization is continuing the "Post Excellence Award" program. Now is the time to start working on this program as it is very achievable for every post. I am going to list the information as many of you may not have seen the criteria:

- **Membership.** Post membership must be at least one member more than the previous year. A post officer must attend your district meetings.
- **Youth activities.** The post must sponsor and actively participate in at least one primary youth program: Boys State, Legion Baseball, the Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts of America or Junior Shooting Sports.
- **Community Service.** The post must organize a community service project that involves members of the Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion. A monetary donation may only be one part of a project.
- **Service to troops or veterans.** The post must organize a project supporting troops or veterans (for example Family Support Network or Operation Comfort Warriors), that involves members of the Legion, Auxiliary or SAL outside the post. A monetary donation may only be one part of a project.

Certification: Your district commander must certify your post as having fulfilled the four specified criteria, and submit the list of the post name, number, address and the commanders name to department headquarters. If possible, accompany with copies of press releases submitted to local media that raise awareness for the projects and enhance the Legion's public image.

Awards: Each qualifying post, as well as district commanders whose districts have at least 50% of posts reach certification, will receive a certificate of recognition.

For more information go to www.legion.org/commander/postexcellence

Don't forget, the 8th annual Legacy Run will be coming through Texas this year, in conjunction with the national convention, to be held in Houston. They will arrive in the Sherman area around noon on Tuesday, Aug 21, arriving at League City Post 554 on Thursday, August 22 around 3:00 pm. They will stay in Stephenville on Tue and Seguin on Wed. Let's get out and give them a big Texas welcome as they come through your area. You may check the final itinerary on www.legion.org/legacyrun.

Yours in Service, For God and Country
Jim Fleming
State Commander

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The American Legion, Department of Texas
State Baseball Tournament Winner is?

League City Post 554!

By M. Simon

After an exciting 5 team tournament between the 4 division winners and the host post, League City Post 554 wins the State Baseball Tournament.

Division 1 winner Texarkana, Division 2 winner Tomball, Division 3 winner League City, Division 4 winner Pecos and the host post from Atlanta held a 5 team double elimination tournament in Texarkana TX. The original tournament site was to be Atlanta but due to an infestation of nut grass, Carl Smith, 1st Division Baseball Chair stepped up in short notice and volunteered a Texarkana TX field to have the tournament.

The bracket play broke down to:

Game 1	Tomball 12	Pecos 6
Game 2	League City 11	Atlanta 1
Game 3	Texarkana 10	Tomball 8
Game 4	Atlanta 10	Pecos 0
Game 5	Texarkana 7	League City 27
Game 6	Tomball 14	Atlanta 4
Game 7	Texarkana 11	Tomball 10
Game 8	League City 14	Texarkana 7

League City then moved onto the Regional Tournament in Surprise AZ. Legion Baseball is very important to your community; please support your baseball program. Sponsor a team, go to a game, but support the program.

Regional Follow-up

League City traveled to Surprise AZ to play in the Regional Play-offs

Game 1	Fort Collins CO 19	League City TX 4
Game 2	League City TX 14	Buckeye AZ 2
Game 3	League City TX 6	Helper UT 1
Game 4	Las Vegas NV 7	League City 4

League City represented Texas well this year. You can be proud of your Texas State Champions.

SUPPORT LEGION BASEBALL

2013-2014 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Jim Fleming, Department Commander
John McKinney, Department Vice Commander
Jim Prendergast, National Executive Committeeman
Paul Dillard, Alternate National Executive Committeeman
William West, Department Adjutant
Harvey Klee, Department Chaplain
Walter Ivie, Department Treasurer
Steve Watkins, Department Judge Advocate
Cyndi Miller, Department Historian
Don Toohey, Department Sergeant-at-Arms
Ed Kegley, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Dan Corbin, 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 Brideschge, Department Service Officer

DIVISION COMMANDERS

Jeff Perkins, 1st Division Commander
Bryan Coleman, 2nd Division Commander
Glen Moody, 3rd Division Commander
Ronnie Pietzsch, 4th Division Commander

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Lerory Anderson, 1st District Commander
Leaman Laws, 2nd District Commander
John Brewer, 3rd District Commander
David Harvey, 4th District Commander
Gary Smith, 5th District Commander
John Hince, 6th District Commander
Ed Jarvis, 7th District Commander
Patrick Yancey, 8th District Commander
Jerry Kubala, 9th District Commander
Al Banzer, 10th District Commander
Sandy Kousman, 11th District Commander
Joe Page, 12th District Commander
Ken Horn, 13th District Commander
Reno Reiley, 14th District Commander
Harlan Lucas, 15th District Commander
Richard Britton, 16th District Commander
Bret Watson, 17th District Commander
William Dannheim, 18th District Commander
Ralph Langley, 19th District Commander
Lloyd Buckmaster, 20th District Commander
John DiFrancesco, 21st District Commander
John Osborne, 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 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!

**The Texas American Legion
2013 Department Convention Sweepstakes Winners**

The Department Convention Sweepstakes drawing was held on July 12, 2013 at the Westin Plaza Hotel in Irving.

Congratulations' to the following winners:

	Prize	Amount	Name	City	P/U/S
1	Grand Prize	\$10,000.00	Jessie Lee Ulrich	Ft Worth	Unit 626
2	Second Prize	\$5000.00	Ronald VanZandt	Sherman	Sqd 29
3	Third Prize	\$2500.00	John Rodden	San Antonio	Post 345
4	Fourth Prize	\$1500.00	Martin Beltran	El Paso	Post 36
5	Fifth Prize	\$1000.00	Lawrence Philips	Houston	Post 490
6	Sixth Prize	\$500.00	Robert Dorsey	Dallas	Post 581
7	Seventh Prize	\$500.00	Judi Winiarski	New London	Unit 363
8	Eighth Prize	\$100.00	Herman Bergbauer	Navasota	Post 345
9	Ninth Prize	\$100.00	Bill Jones	Lott	Post 345
10	Tenth Prize	\$100.00	Marcia Mixon	White Oaks	Post 407
11	Eleventh Prize	\$100.00	David Garcia Jr	Robinson	Post 121
12	Twelfth Prize	\$100.00	William Barnes	San Antonio	Post 345

Winners are posted in the February and August monthly issue of the Legion Times immediately after the drawing and can be found at www.txlegion.org.

FIRST ANNUAL JUNIOR DEPARTMENT CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

I'm pleased to report that the first annual Junior Department Championship Tournament was a grand success. Large crowd. Great baseball. Very exciting. It doesn't get much better than that. The two teams in the championship round, Texarkana and Atlanta, split their first two games. In the decisive third game, they went extra innings before Texarkana took the victory.

FYI, on Sunday morning I was informed that Texas was invited to send two teams to the Regional Jr. Tournament in Bryant, AR, to play the state Jr. champs from other states, at no extra cost. So, both Texarkana and Atlanta will represent the Department of Texas at the Regional Tournament. What a deal!

High fives to everyone who were involved with making this successful event happen. Thanks particularly to Commander Bobby McDonald and Post 25 for hosting it, and especially to 1st District Baseball Chairman Carl Smith for organizing and directing the tournament. Outstanding field and facilities. It was one of the best organized and best run tournaments I've ever seen.

"For God and Country", and for building character in young men through American Legion Baseball,
JEROME A. ILTIS
 State Baseball Chairman



Chaplains Corner

While continuing with this column for the new 2013-2014 term, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to Jim Fleming, Department Commander, for my appointment as Department Chaplain and to the Department Executive Committee for approving the appointment. It is my intent to continue this column during my term in office and hope that the practice will continue by future Department Chaplains.

If you know of any Legionnaire who may be transferred to the Post Everlasting during the coming year or who is ill, injured, facing or recovering from surgery, etc. please let me know through my e-mail address at chaplain@txlegion.org so that I might write them on your behalf expressing our concerns and prayers. Their names will also be posted on the Texas Chaplains Association web site's Prayer List – no personal details will be revealed in order to protect one's privacy, only that prayer is requested.

All newly appointed or elected Chaplains are encouraged to attend the Chaplains Workshop during the forthcoming Mid-Winter Conference in Austin at the Omni Hotel on Friday, January 24, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. More specifics will be announced as we get closer to the date at www.texaschaplains.org. If there are any particular topics you would like to have covered at the Work Shop that may be of interest to Chaplains, please let me know.

Also, if you know of any instance where Legion Chaplains have been in the news, recognized for outstanding service, contribution or accomplishment please send that along to me as well.

And don't forget the Chaplain of the Year Award given out at the annual Department Convention. Don't wait until the last minute to consider a candidate to nominate and documenting their activities for the year. Submissions need be mailed to the Department no later than 30 days before the commencement of the annual convention.

Although only Post Chaplains are eligible for the

Chaplain of the Year Award, District, Division and even Department Chaplains (excluding myself) are eligible for the Texas Chaplains Association (TCA) Award for Outstanding Service. Submissions need be sent to the TCA in no later than 30 days before the annual convention and can be e-mailed in. See the TCA web site for further details.

Finally, if there are other items you would like me to comment on in future columns that may be of specific concern or of general interest to Chaplains, please e-mail me and I'll try to address them as best I can.

My prayer for the new term of officers is:

Almighty and Merciful God,

We are thankful for those whose terms have just ended, we thank them for a job well done and thank you for supporting them in all their endeavors on our behalf.

We pray now for all those who have been newly chosen to serve in positions of responsibility on behalf of the American Legion, Department of Texas. May each and every one throughout their term of office, perform their duties faithfully, competently and joyfully.

Guide them in the performance of their office; bless them with the knowledge they will need. May they have tolerance toward those whose opinions may differ from their own and may all unite in the common cause of serving God and Country.

This we pray in your holy name.

Amen

Harvey H. Klee
Department Chaplain 2013-2014

Texas Rangers honor veterans during 4th of July game

Jan Velasco, a member of Auxiliary Unit 453 in Dallas, hit a Public Relations homerun on July 4th when she arranged for the Texas Rangers baseball TV broadcasters to wear Poppies during the holiday game and to talk about veterans, The Legion, the Auxiliary and the Poppy story during the broadcast.

Jan wrote a letter to the Rangers organization in May asking that their announcers and broadcast team wear Poppies during the July 4th game as part of their celebration ceremonies for veterans and the Nation's birthday. Jan was thrilled to get a positive response to her idea and, on July 1, she was at the Texas Rangers office to present a gift of 60 Poppies to Madison Pelletier, Broadcast Network Coordinator for the Texas Rangers Baseball Club. Accompanying her was Sal Mancuso, Public Relations Chairman for American Legion Love Field Post 453.

Along with the gift of Poppies, Jan and Sal provided an information sheet explaining the history and origin of the Poppy, as well as a short history of the American Legion Auxiliary. They were assured that the game announcers (including Tom Grieve, a former player with the Rangers) were very excited to present this story during the game.

True to their word, before the start of the 5th inning, viewers were treated to a live picture of Tom Grieve, Steve Busby and Mark McLemore in the broadcast booth – and all of them were wearing Poppies. Over the next few minutes they read and discussed the history of the Poppy to veterans, and thanked the ALA for its donation. In the bottom of the 5th inning, a picture of some of the TV crew involved in the broadcast were shown wearing Poppies as well, while the announcers made it clear to the fans watching that the entire staff was proud and grateful to be honoring servicemen on this day.



Jan Velasco of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 453 in Dallas presents a gift of 60 poppies to Madison Pelletier, Broadcast Coordinator for the Texas Rangers. With her is Sal Mancuso, Public Relation Chairman for Post 453.



Texas Rangers Baseball Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

We wish to thank the Texas Rangers organization for honoring our country's veterans on our Nation's birthday, and for their kindness and consideration in helping American Legion Auxiliary Unit 453 to promote its Poppy program to the Rangers fans of Dallas/Fort Worth.

Submitted by Jan Velasco and Sal Mancuso
Public Relations Committee
American Legion Post 453

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- ★ Over 675,000 members enrolled.
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- ★ As of 2010, paid over \$55,000,000 in allocations back to participating Departments.
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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.



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Navy



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Reverse Side

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