



THE LEGION TIMES

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Department of Texas

August 2015 • Volume 97, Issue 1

Message from the Commander



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Please accept my sincere thanks for your vote of confidence in electing me as your 2015-2016 State Commander. It is one of the greatest honors of my life and I am deeply humbled by your decision. You can rest assured that I will give you my complete effort and absolute dedication to making The American Legion Department of Texas the best of the best by "Serving Those Who Served." It is my hope that everyone had a safe trip home from the convention in Beaumont. Thanks and Congratulations to District 2 for hosting a great convention.



We must remember why this great organization was formed in 1919, to provide our fellow veterans and their families the support they needed to transition to civilian life. We can only accomplish that if we operate as a team and grow as an organization. We must continue to be the voice of those who have no voice and remain vigilant of those who would reduce or eliminate their earned benefits.

In order for us to be successful in our endeavors, it is necessary that we communicate effectively. A business professor I had in college once informed the class that there were three keys to a successful company or organization and they were; Communication, Communication, Communication, at all levels of management and in all directions up, down, and horizontally. We must communicate what we do for the communities and veterans we serve. We must communicate with our membership to keep them involved in our programs. To accomplish that, we must have the contact information, (preferably email addresses) on as many members as possible. Please help us accomplish that goal.

We face great challenges this year on all fronts, but I know that with your commitment to the principles of I CARE, we will be successful. As you know, that stands for:

- I—Integrity, doing the right thing for the right reason.
- C—Commitment, total buy in on the goals and mission
- A—Advocacy, protecting the benefits and programs
- R—Respect, for your fellow legionnaire and their views and opinions
- E—Excellence, being the best of the best and settling for nothing less

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HINTS FROM HINCE

Beaumont was the site of a great State convention but if you missed it, put El Paso on your calendar for July 2016 for the next State gathering. Super speakers, great training and a lot of challenging ideas were exchanged along with numerous awards.

HINT: Use the State elections to introduce YOUR new leaders to your communities. Take advantage of all the media hype about veterans to show the real face of the veteran to your local folks. Remember if you need help with an article or want to bounce ideas off someone, do not hesitate to call.

POW-MIA Day is the third Friday in September and is one of those recognition days that should NEVER be forgotten. With all the verbiage in the news this summer, let's take this opportunity to MAKE A BIG DEAL OF POW-MIA Day in 2015. This is one of those programs that the entire Legion family can get behind. The ceremonies are beautiful and moving and you can get everyone involved.

HINT: Get your program set NOW. Do some investigation and you may find you have a former POW in your area. Recognize those heroes...God bless them everyone.

Media Awards are given in Texas at the state level .This past year; we had ONE entry submitted to State for its newspaper award and none for radio or television.

HINT: Start a file now so when it comes to be spring, you can get an entry together. With all the good programs and people out there, Texas should be leading the way!

Again...need help, ask...

Gerry Hince at hince57@msn.com or 979 778-1835

2015-2016 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

John McKinny, Department Commander
John Hince, Department Vice Commander
Jim Prendergast, National Executive Committeeman
C. W. Sparks, Alternate National Executive Committeeman
William West, Department Adjutant
Harvey Klee, Department Chaplain
Walter Ivie, Department Treasurer
Steve Watkins, Department Judge Advocate
Susan Marty, Department Historian
Ed Kegley, Department Sergeant-at-Arms
Jim Forbus, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Lynn Sparks, 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 Bridschge, Department Service Officer

DIVISION COMMANDERS

John Brewer, 1st Division Commander
Dan King, 2nd Division Commander
Reno Reiley, 3rd Division Commander
Dan Dutton, 4th Division Commander

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Andy Lowen, 1st District Commander
Glenda Simon, 2nd District Commander
Gerald Holsworth, 3rd District Commander
Terry Cloninger, 4th District Commander
Charlie Peoples, 5th District Commander
Billy Winter, 6th District Commander
Kimberly Biggerstaff, 7th District Commander
Joey Garamillo, 8th District Commander
Bea Trevino, 9th District Commander
Steve Miller, 10th District Commander
Steve Cook, 11th District Commander
Joe Page, 12th District Commander
Greg Garland, 13th District Commander
Ricardo Hankerson, 14th District Commander
Rosa Cavazos, 15th District Commander
Phillip Westerman, 16th District Commander
Kenneth Simonton, 17th District Commander
John Overton, 18th District Commander
Johnny Franklin, 19th District Commander
Robert Masten, 20th District Commander
BJ Seider, 21st District Commander
Juan Torres, Jr., 22nd District Commander
Hector Alva, 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 attach 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!

Message from the Auxiliary

Hot Texas Summer Greetings from the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas!

2015 Department Convention in Beaumont will always be special to me - where I was elected and installed as Texas' ALA President. I wish to personally send kudos to ALA Convention Chairman PDP Christine Trahan and the convention committee for all their hard work. It definitely paid off and we all had a wonderful experience. Congratulations to Commander Lynn Sparks on a very successful convention and administrative year.

Congratulations to the newly elected Commander John McKinny. I look forward to serving with him as we lead our organizations in the 2015-2016 year. Commander McKinny's slogan, "Serving Those Who Served" is fitting and is a complement to the theme I have chosen this year, "Never Forget - Be the Light". Together we will be serving our veterans while being the light for those veterans, activity duty military and their families along with our communities and children.

New officers have been elected and we and our Auxiliary members are ready and willing to assist the Legionnaires in all their endeavors.

"Do You Know Who I Am" is an Elvis song from 1969. Please allow me to take a moment and introduce myself to all of you. I am from Unit 488 in New Boston, 1st District and 1st Division. I have served at all levels of the ALA from the Unit to Department level. I served as ALA Dept Secretary from 2000 to 2011 and worked closely with the Legion Adjutant and staff during those years. I have great respect for each of you and wish to thank you for your service to our country.

I collect elephants (hence the "never forget" portion of my theme) and I am an avid fan of Elvis. The Auxiliary membership theme is TCM (Taking care of membership) and it is my heartfelt hope that the female Legionnaires will consider membership in the ALA if you haven't and I thank those of you that support our efforts with your membership and your participation. I also hope that your mothers, sisters, wives, and your female descendants will help Texas ALA reach new heights in membership... we can't serve our mission statement without the funds and the efforts of members across our great state.

I look forward to seeing many of you as I travel this year across all of Texas. Please let us know how we can help advance the causes of The American Legion.

Always remember that the Auxiliary is here to aid, support and follow our veterans and our members in service to our communities, state and nation.

**Paula Raney
Department President 2015-2016**



Chaplain's Corner

As we begin a new term for the officers, men and women of The American Legion, Department of Texas I have the honor to serve as your Department Chaplain for the coming year.

This is my prayer for those officers who will be serving in the year 2015-2016.

Almighty God, we stand before You in prayer and humbly beseech Your Divine Providence upon the officers of the Department, Divisions, Districts and Posts.

Grant each and every member clear vision and leadership acumen as they navigate the waters of those tasks that have been set before them.

Grant all those who serve as officers, or on various committees, commissions and, indeed, in all positions of leadership, insight and wisdom. Grant them the quality of excellence in planning both short and long term goals that focuses on the growth and betterment of The American Legion, Department of Texas.

As we pledge "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" we acknowledge You, dear Lord, who created us all and cares about us all equally, bless this body here united in service to God and Country

Amen.

This is my prayer for all members of The American Legion Family, Department of Texas.

Dear Lord, Give all members of The American Legion Family the knowledge, motivation and competency to do their jobs graciously and with due diligence, not only for the benefit of those veterans and their families for whom they serve, but in honor and glorification of your holy name. May success be their reward.

Let us continue to strive for excellence in all that we do knowing that we are exactly where you want us to be, doing that which you want us to do at this very moment. Encourage us to go forward and may the final outcome of our efforts be in your hands. May we be authentic in all that we do - with love and compassion for one another, as we go forward - unified in a common cause.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of so many in need. May our membership increase through the knowledge gained through training and the application of what we learn.

But without you, dear Lord, we can do nothing. And so we pray for guidance, direction, fortitude, energy, persistence and the commitment necessary for our success as Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders.

All this we pray in your most sacred name. Amen.

Harvey H. KLee
Department Chaplain 2015-2016
www.texaschaplains.org



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TEXAS LONE STAR RECRUITER PIN

Have you earned 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

I AM TEAM TEXAS

Submitted by Gerry Hince

In the past few months, the National American Legion has undertaken a marketing drive under the heading of "I am the American Legion."

If you read the monthly magazine or watch the ads on television, you have seen veterans from all over the nation. These individuals are from small posts, mega posts, cities, small towns and represent every era in our history with living veterans.

Soon, we may be seeing a Lone Star veteran in publications. In May a call went out to District Commanders and 4 nominations were received. Thank you to those Commanders who took the time to recognize their Legionnaires.

Commander McKinny is taking this identity one step further... We will be seeing "I am Team Texas" starting next month and every month in the Legion Times.

To nominate one of your members, please send me a letter of nomination on why your chosen individual deserves the recognition as TEAM TEXAS.

No cash or moon pies will change hands and I look forward to being OVERWHELMED with nominations! We have a great Legion family in the Lone Star state and it is time to start tooting our own horns....that kills this Aggie mom to write that!!!

Questions- call 979 778-1835 or hince57@msn.com

God bless

Gerry Hince

The Texas American Legion 2015 Department Convention Sweepstakes Winners

The Department Convention Sweepstakes drawing was held on July 10, 2015 at the Holiday Inn & Suites Hotel in Beaumont, TX.

Congratulations' to the following winners:

	Prize	Amount	Name	City	Post / Unit
1	Grand Prize	\$10,000.00	Butch Riveria	El Paso	832
2	Second Prize	\$5000.00	Robert Densford II	Lubbock	575
3	Third Prize	\$2500.00	Juencio Farias	Helotes	336
4	Fourth Prize	\$1500.00	Robert Blackburn	San Marcos	345
5	Fifth Prize	\$1000.00	Charles Whitehead	Fair Oaks	583
6	Sixth Prize	\$500.00	Robert May	Bedford	379
7	Seventh Prize	\$500.00	Robert May	Bedford	379
8	Eighth Prize	\$100.00	William Cartier	Nacogdoches	86
9	Ninth Prize	\$100.00	Philip Odom	Houston	560
10	Tenth Prize	\$100.00	Joseph Attaway	Highlands	521
11	Eleventh Prize	\$100.00	Tex Clifford	El Paso	504
12	Twelfth Prize	\$100.00	Jack Rogers	Lewisville	88
13	Thirteenth Prize	\$100.00	Pablo Castellano	San Antonio	592

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.

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- ★ **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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Department of Texas

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