“It takes a village to make a child.” A lady in politics once wrote that and if we change it just a bit and say... it takes veterans, their spouses and their children to make the Legion Family. Our recent State elections brought out the very best in people and thanks are due to all those who ran for office for setting the example to all that involvement matters and when people get together great things can and will happen.

Thank you to all who participated in our recent elections and a special thank you to those who also gave some challenging ideas for the coming years and for programs. Think you will be pleased to see that you were heard and changes are happening.

Our Legion is a proud and worthy organization and it has even greater potential in the current year with all the tools that are now available to us. It also has more challenges than ever before but with the cooperation and collaboration of all, it will grow and meet the needs of our members and our beloved nation.

As the father to two sons still in uniform, there is solid commitment to continue to put the needs of our veterans first and you can be sure that this is a priority in my daily life. Ensuring that our troops of the past and of today continue to receive the very best of services across the board is seen in our Legion programs both in Texas and in DC. Our Program Chairs and their committees are on board to make this the very best year yet and all of us need your help. If you have an idea or an observation, please get to the folks who can make it happen. The second night of my Command, I was in Austin and heard District Commander Ted Weeks share the Patriotism Restoration Program with Post 76 at their installation. His enthusiasm for this new program in the American Legion bag of tricks is contagious!

This month will see our new Commanders at all levels in Austin for training ... training that is the result of conversations across the board. Come September, we will host our Fall DEC and again, will offer classes on what the rank and file asked for. We are only as good as our weakest link and this Commander, for one, feels we are ready for the next 100 years.

God bless you, America and our beloved American Legion.

John Hince
Department Commander
2017-2018
Chaplain’s Corner

There is a dearth of patriotic holidays celebrated in the month of August, much less those relating to veterans (save for Purple Heat Day that I wrote about last year) – with one exception: United States Coast Guard Day celebrated on August 4.

Some historical background: On August 4, 1790, the Revenue Cutter Service was created by the U.S. Congress. Congress authorized the construction of ten cutters. These ships were built to enforce U.S. tariff laws. The Revenue Cutter Service was the predecessor to the U.S. Coast Guard. The name “Coast Guard” was first used in 1915.

U.S. Coast Guard Day honors the military branch that protects our waters and shorelines. The U.S. Defense Department suggests that this day is largely an internal celebration for all Coast Guard personnel and their families, past and present. But everyone should be encouraged to honor the brave members of this important branch of the military.

We don’t usually hear much about our fellow shipmates in the Coast Guard but “Coasties,” as they are affectionately called, are now playing an even more extensive role in Homeland Security to protect our country.

The Chaplain of the United States Coast Guard is a United States Navy Chaplain Corps officer who reports directly to the Commandant of the Coast Guard with headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Coast Guard does not have its own Chaplain corps, nor does the Marine Corps. The Marines also get their chaplains from the Navy Chaplain Corps.

To honor those who have served or are now serving in the United States Coast Guard on their special day, here is the Coast Guard Prayer:

Almighty and Everlasting God, Whose hand stills the tumult of the deep, we offer our prayers for those who serve in our Coast Guard.

We are mindful of their traditions of selfless service to the seafarers who make their ways to appointed ports. Employ their devotions of good ends as they track the weather and search for the seas for those in extremity of storm, shipwreck or battle. Make their soundings and markings sure that safe passages may be found by those who go down to the sea in ships.

Encourage them, O Lord, as they stand guard over our coasts and the bulwarks of our freedoms. Graciously deliver them from threatening calamities in all their perilous voyages. Bless the keepers of the lights and be Thou their close friend in lonely watches. Keep the beacons of honor and duty burning that they may reach the home port with duty well performed, in service to Thee and our land.

Amen.

Harvey H. Klee
National Chaplain 2016-2017
Department Chaplain 2016-2017
www.texaschaplains.org
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 article with a proper file name so we can easily recognize it.

- Be 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 software.

- E-mail everything directly to 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!
If you know you have a great program, why would you not want to share it with the world? That is exactly what our membership program is all about!

It is going to be a great year for membership. 2017-2018 will bring a new fire to the Lone Star State with veterans, especially younger veterans, joining our ranks! If you were at the state convention, you saw the number of millennials present and hopefully, you got to share in their ideas. Committee meetings during the entire convention saw folks under 40 getting fired up about what they wanted to do for THEIR Legion!

“Just ask” is a slogan used by our incoming National Commander Denise Rohan and our own Don Toohey during his campaign. It is a two word phrase that is truly a call to action. This coming year, you will see continuous and enthusiastic recruiting on every level. The upcoming training for command- ers will provide collaboration time to exchange ideas for increasing our membership drives. Please feel free to send your ideas to me on different and better ways to get members and to keep members. A team effort is a positive undertaking and if we all work together, we will succeed.

Public Relations and the media are two tools that we need to capture to increase membership.

At their committee meeting, ideas were offered for increased use of Facebook, websites and on line tools. Those suggesting changes are now working on making it happen! Letters to the Editor are an overlooked recruitment tool. Make an effort NOW to hit your local paper. Perhaps you will be as lucky as me. We found a best friend for veterans in our Alpine weekly paper.

We still have boxes of door hangers to be used in your / our membership drives. Talk with folks who have used them and you will see a pattern of success. Call state and ask for some or call me and I will make sure you get them. THEY WORK.

Want a formal membership drive for your Post? Put your request in now. Your officers at every level are here to serve you and your Legion family. We have membership experts...it and they work!

2017-2018 will be a banner year for Texas!

Here to serve,
Phil Westerman
Department Vice Commander
2017-2018

---

Twenty-six Katy boys are attending the annual Boys State convention in Austin, June 11-16. It’s sponsored by The American Legion and held at the University of Texas. Attendees are learning about state, county, and city governments and holding elections. More than a thousand boys statewide are attending.

The boys and their high schools are: Dominic Barzilla, Michael Tian, and Dylon Wallis, Cinco Ranch; Christopher Crain and Cameron Thieme, Faith West; Alexander Matthey, Katy; Quincy Cormier, Carlos Cortez, Sebastian Enzi, Isaac Hughes, Gregor Ras and Arman Yazdian, Mayde Creek; Jordan Bates, Trech Drake and Juan Fuentes, Morton Ranch; Drew Bulawa, Hayden Humes and Tommy Zhang, Seven Lakes; Christian Costello, George Kopf and Tyler Skinner, St. John’s; Mason Nichols, Taylor; Francisco Cano, Andrew Powell, Grant Shelton and Michael Thumann, Tompkins.

Following recommendations from teachers and counselors at their schools, the Katy boys were interviewed and selected earlier this year by Monte Ikner, Bobby Steph, and Jeff Pizarras, members of Jonathan D. Rozier Post 164.

Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935.
Welcome to the 2017-2018 American Legion Year! All across the State, new officers have taken office and plans and programs are underway.

NOW IS THE TIME... for all Posts to hit their local media with information about our Legion programs and services. You can pair it with the announcement of the election of officers and appointment of program chairs.

Papers, radio stations and television stations are always looking for community news and highlighting community citizens.

HINTS FROM HINCE: If you need a press release to share with your local media, just email me and I will send you one you can slip your information into it. There is no need to reinvent the wheel! Timing is everything and hit while the news is still new!

Killeen was the site of the 2017 Texas American Legion State convention and Legion family members hit the military community and the Legion, the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion had great workshops, super speakers and continuous fellowship over the 5 days of meetings.

Thank you to all the staff members, outgoing officers, committee chairs and members and commission chairs and members for a well-orchestrated week. Even the Juniors got into the act and made it a family affair.

The next leadership gathering will be the Commanders Training the weekend of 11 August in Austin and then on to Reno for the National Convention.

HINTS FROM HINCE: Take the information and ideas you learned in Killeen and share it on every level. The convention was one of collaboration and cooperation...what a start to a new year!!

MILLENNIALS....we have 4 in our immediate family and bless them, they put up with their old mother-in-law and mom. My flip phone is finally a thing of the past but Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram are on my list of things to try in the coming months.

James Sutton of Post 232 in Longview is my hero for he has spent a lot of time and effort in gathering thoughts on how to reach the “young veterans” of today. I admit, I remember when I was a “young” veteran up in our Post in Virginia and how frustrated I would get that the “old guys” (yes, they were all men in my beloved Post 364!) just did not understand where vets were in 1990!

Jim has put together an eight page article on how to recruit millennials for your Post and it has lots of great ideas and angles to think about. THANK YOU for sharing some great research!

HINTS FROM HINCE: Follow Post 232’s example and set up a mentorship program. It is a two way street and promises to increase conversation and involvement.

Every Post can help millennial vets with red tape....us oldies in many cases have found back doors or have gotten key personnel who can help all vets.

Be like Longview and share your ideas...or things that do not work! If you can prevent my Post from making a mistake, we are ok with that!!

College Scholarships in some areas are few and far between but Temple Post 133 has a program that offers college students a significant start to their college careers.

The program is awarded to relatives of the Post, thus keeping the funds in the Legion family, and those competing are top notch. We were taken aback to find out that one of our Boys State attendees from Post 159 in Bryan won $2500. per semester from the Temple Post.

HINTS FROM HINCE: Contact the Temple Post and see how they make their program work to take care of the next generation’s education. Legion programs work!

American Legion Online on 20 July had a great article on Texas A&M and its relationship with veterans and the local Post 159. Congrats to Gerry Smith and his entire team in the Veteran Service Office (VSO). They are all team players who make it FUN to be a Legionnaire!!

HINTS FROM HINCE: If you are in a college town, get with Post 159 or Gerry Smith from A&M VSO or me and we will get you on the road to success with student veterans!

One of the first Legionnaires we met in the state of Texas was Tom Larsen. Tom is a dedicated Legion member who lives the 4 Pillars. He knows every one of them and has been a welcome face at our conventions. In May, Tom was named the Volunteer of the Year for TEXANA. It is an award named after his beloved wife and the group surprised him at their annual gathering.

At their “Reach for the Stars” celebration, Tom was recognized for his countless hours and dedications to the programs of Texana.

HINTS FROM HINCE: All this writer can say is” God bless you Tom for all you have done and continue to do for our communities and our Legion.”

God Bless,
Gerry Hince
Joey Campbell Named the 2017 Department of Texas Eagle Scout of the Year

During the contest period, Joey was a junior at Colleyville Heritage High School. He was also a registered AP student, and a member of the National Honor Society, the student council, the robotics club, the football team, and the German club. He has lettered in strength training and marching band. Joey is on track to depart high school as a State Foundation STEM Endorsed Graduate, an AP Scholar, and a Community Scholar Ambassador. He plans to earn an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, major in Aerospace Engineering and serve as a Marine Corps pilot. Recently, Joey was named the Colleyville Chamber Youth of the Year, and he attended Texas Boys State where he was the Mayor of McGee City and he was nominated by his counselors for Boys Nation. In November Joey receives the Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award and in December he receives the Gold Congressional Award.

Joey’s Scouting Highlights involving Post 379

- Eagle Scout with Gold Palm.
- Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting’s National Honor Society.
- Eagle Scout Service Project was a 1500+ flag retirement for Post 379.
- Venturing Summit Award recipient.
- Summit Award Service Project was laminating the main stage and adjacent back wall for Post 379 just in time for the 2017 Department of Texas High School Oratorical Winner, Isaac Taylor, to start his oratorical journey from that stage.
- Served one year as the only Den Chief for Cub Scout Pack 546 which is charted by Post 379.

Joseph Campbell
Post 379 Historian

Awards Banquet and Boys State

Jason Castleberry
Post Commander
Laramore-Osborne American Legion Post

July 21st the Laramore-Osborne American Legion Post in Royse City held it’s first ever Officer Installation and awards ceremony. David Harvey Past 1st Division Commander and past 4th District Commander conducted the ceremony and 4th District Commander Gene Toohey was also present. Steven Lowes and Jason Castleberry presented certificates to all of the officers for volunteering to accept leadership roles. The post also presented three Cold War Certificates to Steve Lowes, Danette Lowes and Kurt Mueller. James Otis Sr who wasn’t in attendance received a recruiting certificate from national. In addition to the American Legion certificates the post also presented certificates and medals to our Boys State attendees Bryan Barnes and Caleb Fay. It was a really great evening of fellowship and fun.
Monte Ikner (far left), a member of the Boys State committee for American Legion Post 164 in Katy, speaks at a July 15 brunch and awards ceremony for boys and their families. The post sponsored 26 Katy boys for this year’s Boys State convention in June in Austin. The eight boys who attended the brunch spoke about their experiences at Boys State.

Members of American Legion Post 164 in Katy conducted a flag retirement ceremony June 11 with assistance from Boy Scout Troop 73 and Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48. Hundreds of old flags from the community were burned in barrels. The ceremony outside the Elks Lodge followed a flag history ceremony by the Elks. (Photo by Jennifer Pizarras)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAPEL PIN</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COIN</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garment Bag</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garrison Cap Bag</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Embroidered Shirts</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM</td>
<td>$36.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LARGE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2XLG</td>
<td>$38.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3XLG</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4XLG</td>
<td>$42.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LADIES</td>
<td>$36.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2XLG</td>
<td>$38.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3XLG</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4XLG</td>
<td>$42.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enter Quantity in box

TOTAL ITEMS CHECKED

TOTAL AMOUNT

Check or money order also accepted

Mail to: American Legion PO Box 140527 Austin, TX. 78714
100th Anniversary Order Form

The American Legion is fast approaching our 100th Anniversary and the Department of Texas has several commemorative items available for purchase to mark this milestone!

Please see our order form on the previous page. Just fill out and mail to the Department Headquarters with your check or money order and we will send the items to you.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

Simply go to smile.amazon.com, sign into your normal Amazon account and then type in “American Legion Charities Inc” in the search box when the prompt comes up. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

American Legion Charities Inc

About
Public Foundations

The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes or service charges. From time to time, Amazon may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services, or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations.

Please Note: Only purchases at smile.amazon.com – not at www.amazon.com or the mobile app – support any charities.
TEXAS VETERANS FREE VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE
PROGRAM EXPANDED

A bill was introduced in the Texas Legislation and passed that expanded the free vehicle license plate program for Veterans last summer.

The program now includes free plates for more of the military medals that are awarded our servicemen. We encourage you to look into this as you may now qualify. It does require you to have your DD214 to send into Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (SPB), 4000 Jackson Ave, Austin, TX 78731. This takes about 4 weeks to process. For more information call them at 512-374-5010.

TEXAS LONE STAR RECRUITER PIN
Have you earn 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 Hometown, 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
Choose the medical alert service that has saved more lives than any other

**There’s a Lifeline medical alert solution for you**

Lifeline offers a range of choices to help you maintain your independence. Whether you need the go-anywhere protection of GoSafe® or the peace of mind offered by HomeSafe, Lifeline has you covered.

**Special offer for Legionnaires**

Save up to $70 with free activation and free shipping

1-855-495-4356

www.thelit.com/lifeline-medical-alert-services

© 2015. Button signal range may vary due to environmental factors. For new customers only. Not to be combined with any other offer and subject to change without notice. Monthly fees and applicable taxes apply. Other fees may apply. Minimum stay on service may be required. *Coverage outside the home provided where AT&T wireless network coverage is available.

Endorsed by Your Department of The American Legion
GET THE CREDIT CARD THAT SUPPORTS THE AMERICAN LEGION.

With your everyday purchases, you can help support The American Legion. Get The American Legion USAA Rewards™ American Express® Credit Card and take advantage of:

- **0% introductory APR for 12 months** on balance transfers and convenience checks posted in the first three months after account opening (10.90% to 25.90% variable APR after 12 months on these balances)¹
- **No annual fee**
- **Earn 1 point for every dollar spent and 2X points on gas and groceries**! Plus, now you can extend your support by redeeming your rewards points for a donation to The American Legion

**APPLY TODAY.**
usaa.com/legionamex or 1-877-699-2654

¹Offer subject to approval. As of 12/1/15, regular APRs on purchases, cash advances and balance transfers are 10.90% to 25.90%, depending on your credit history and other factors. APRs vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. There is a transaction fee of 3% on cash advances ($200 maximum on each balance transfer and each convenience check) and 3% on foreign transactions. Rates and fees subject to change. If you transfer a balance or write a convenience check with this offer, all purchases will be charged interest until you pay off the balance in full, including any transferred/convenience check balances. After that, you will have a grace period on purchases when you pay your entire statement balance each month by the payment due date. **Earn 1 point for every $1 in purchases plus 1 additional point on every $1 in purchases that the merchant properly codes as gas and grocery purchases. Grocery purchases at warehouses, discount stores, department stores or other non-grocery store locations are not eligible for the additional 1 point reward. Rewards points terminate if account is closed or delinquent or program ends. Other restrictions apply. USAA Rewards Program terms and conditions will be provided with your card. Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for, or membership in, USAA property and casualty insurance companies. American Express is a federally registered service mark of American Express and is used by USAA Savings Bank pursuant to a license. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship.**
What if you were Bob?

George and Bob both go on a solo fishing trip to a beautiful, but remote, town in Alaska every summer. While enjoying the idyllic scenery, they both notice chest pains — they are having a heart attack!

**What happens next?**

Both require:
- **Medical evacuation to a facility that is able to properly treat their condition**
  - George pays $0
  - Bob pays $16,000

Also:
- **Medical specialists to monitor their care**
  - George pays $0
  - Bob pays $400
- **Travel assistance to bring a loved one to their bedside**
  - George pays $0
  - Bob pays $1,100
- **A driver to drive their car/RV back home since they are unable to drive**
  - George pays $0
  - Bob pays $1,800

George’s Total: $0
Bob’s Total: $19,300!

---

**Emergency Assistance Plus** is an emergency medical transportation service that goes beyond health and travel insurance. It covers expenses for medical transportation, medical evacuation and travel and companion assistance — services that your insurance usually does NOT pay for. You must call EA+ during your emergency so EA+ can make the arrangements for you.

**This is only an outline of the plan’s features. Please read your Member Benefit Guide carefully to understand all the services available to you, as well as any terms, conditions and limitations.**

Learn more about how you can be protected by EA+. Call today to speak with a customer service representative at 1-888-310-1547. Or to apply online, visit www.thell.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus.
We Buy Houses!

- All Cash
- Fast Close
- As Is, no repairs to make
- Bank
- Foreclosure
- No commission to pay
- Best price for your house

Call Mike
682-351-0040
rubycoproperties.com