Message from the Commander

How do we grow the American Legion??

Now is the time to consider how do we grow The American Legion? It through the Four Pillars and the programs that they represent. Which programs does each post support? How do we support the programs? Do we understand the different programs and what it takes to part of our post? Which programs requires funding, and which ones do not?

Our Americanism Committee and Training Committee can provide support to these questions. We need to re-energize our posts by supporting them with the knowledge of the programs. What has happened to all the trainers within the districts? I will be directing the Training Committee to work with the district commanders for setting up training in each district. How can a post promote The American Legion if they do not have the information for developing the different programs? What training does the post want? With the district’s conventions beginning next month, now is the time to talk to your district commander of what each post want training on. The programs are the reasons for a post to grow.

The Fall DEC is upon us and the Training Committee with the assistance of the Americanism Committee will present a list of programs together and work on presentations for each program. With Hurricane Harvey, the tornados in Granbury and Garland, the fires in Bastrop, and now the flooding in Beaumont again – how about – How to create a Post Disaster Preparedness and Response Team?

The Four Pillars were created by the Founding Fathers for a reason. Let’s learn as much as we can about each Pillar and then present them to the public. Everyone in the community should know us – not just our membership. When people in the community can tell our membership what the Four Pillars are, then we know that we are not the best kept secret and the Founding Fathers can be proud of us.

It would be great to talk to someone without being asked: What is The American Legion? However, it would be great when asked “What is The American Legion” - the answer was more than just saying a Veteran Organization because of the training each of us went through.

Thank you for your support and ideas,
Jeff Perkins
Department Commander
Department of Texas
God Bless the United States
God Bless The American Legion Family
This year, the autumnal equinox arrived on September 23 in Texas. October is the time when the season starts to change. Summer has gone by like the fast forward button was stuck. The weather in Texas is getting more hospitable.

With only a few special days in October, we can review how our year went. This will give us a little time to reflect before the hectic holiday season. It's time to slow down and see where we are, to rest and recharge our batteries. The days are getting shorter and we spend more time indoors. Mother Nature starts to slow down, preparing for hibernation; a time of change awaiting the renewal that occurs in the spring.

In the springtime, most people start spring cleaning projects. In the fall before things get hectic is a good time to reflect on our lives. A time in which we can see if our lives need cleaning. Are we happy or not with what we've accomplished? If you're one who makes New Year’s Resolutions, where do you stand with them? There is still time left in the year for us to make changes; call and check on old friends and family, make new friends, work on projects put on hold because of the sweltering heat of summer. If you keep a journal review it. Are we using our time wisely or is it being wasted? I used to have a dear friend that always stated; “I’d rather wear out than rust out.” I don’t know if he is the originator of the quote or not, but it is good advice.

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover.” – Mark Twain

My email address is chtxlegion@gmail.com and my cell phone is 713-569-0959. Do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you or your post.

SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY

Robert L. Harvey
Department Chaplain 2019-2020
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 guidelines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Word format (.doc, .docx) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf) or as a PDF.

- Name your article! Create the headline and save with a proper file name so we can easily recognize it.

- Tell us 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 JPGs (300 dpi, or better). 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!
In the Royse City community; the Laramore-Osborne American Legion Post has worked programs that have supported the local youth, veterans and the community. But recently they faced a scenario that they had to create a program for. After leaving the post meeting in May, Jason Castleberry a post member was stopped and by multiple families who had spouses suffering from PTSD. One family had a veteran that refused to leave the house because he was suffering with severe anxiety and another family had a spouse and veteran who had sever anger issues and struggled to get adequate sleep. If that wasn’t enough that evening there were two other families share their struggles.

Seeing this the post came together and partnered with a local faith based counselor business called Higher Hopes Counseling which is owned by Erin Kincaid who is the spouse and daughter of a veteran. Together they created Vetjam which is a Live Music and Auction Event.

The event took place on September 6th at the Occasions at Stone River and over 80 people came out to show their support for local veterans. When asked about the event Jason Castleberry said “This event is personal for me because I also suffer with PTSD. These veterans that are struggling often times haven’t a purpose or a a release for their anger. We hope that by providing counseling and real PTSD treatment that veterans, their spouses can find peace and understanding so they can cope better with the symptoms they suffer with”.

The event raised over $6,000 for local veterans and will provide numerous sessions for veterans. Rosa Ortega the Post Commander was truly surprised by the communities support. “I am in awe at the support we have received. Our members and the community came out and really showed their support. We just want to thank all of our sponsors and everyone who showed us support”.

Veterans have already begun using the program and really like the fact that the counseling is faith based and that they can have that one on one time to work on the symptoms they are suffering from. Soon the program will offer group counseling sessions and more.
September 17th is Constitution Day. It is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It is normally observed on September 17, the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia. The law establishing the present holiday was created in 2004 with the passage of an amendment by Senator Robert Byrd to the Omnibus spending bill of 2004. Before this law was enacted, the holiday was known as “Citizenship Day”. In addition to renaming the holiday “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day,” the act mandates that all publicly funded educational institutions, and all federal agencies, provide educational programming on the history of the American Constitution on that day. In May 2005, the United States Department of Education announced the enactment of this law and that it would apply to any school receiving federal funds of any kind. - Wikipedia

In preparation for “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day”, Gilbert Intermediate school teacher, Amanda Stanfield contacted American Legion Post 240 Adjutant Roger Easter and together they organized a day of learning resulting in Post 240 Legionnaires, some dressed in their military uniform, conducting classes and demonstrating proper flag folding, flag etiquette and from a veteran’s perspective, how the U.S. Constitution is embodied in the U.S. Flag.

Post 240 membership can be proud of, and owes a debt of gratitude to Burton Smith, Jim Pack, Richard Petronis, Jimmy Finney, Greg Thompson, Tami Barker (volunteered but illness prevented her participation) and Roger Easter for devoting their time and talent to this event and its contribution to the implementation of the 3rd purpose of the American Legion constitution preamble - “To foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism”.

Americanism as defined in the American Legion Officer’s Guide: “Americanism is the gist of the American ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights and unlimited opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has blazed the world-wide trail for justice, fair play, decency, belief in GOD, private enterprise, universal education, and progress in all human endeavors. It puts a premium on the virtues of loyalty, patriotism, hard work and thrift.”

“Speakers from the American Legion visited our students at Gilbert Intermediate. These veterans shared with our kids about the U.S. Constitution, Flag etiquette and their time in the military. We thank them for their service and sacrifice for our freedoms. It was an honor to have them with us today.” - Amanda Stanfield
I had the opportunity to attend the National Children & Youth Conference and I always like to provide a report. The American Legion decided from day one after World War One that the children of fallen or injured soldiers needed to be taken care of so they made one of our four pillars children & youth. In World War One there were 117,000 US casualties and over 200,000 veterans disabled. This is why unlike other Veteran’s organizations we place a huge emphasis on improving the lives of children.

I also think it is important to understand that everything you do as a legionnaire creates a ripple. Every time we provide a scholarship, or send a kid to Boy’s or Girls State or we provide a service we are impacting a person’s life but that person will impact someone else and just like a ripple in a pond the impact becomes more than what it originally began as.

I want to share a saying and it is “The strength of the team is the individual member and the strength of the member is the team”. That is so true as a team we are stronger and can accomplish more than we can as individuals.

Here are a few notes from the conference.

April is the Children & Youth month but April 3rd is Purple Up Day where you wear purple to show your support for children of deployed soldiers.

As an American Legion Family which includes the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Son’s of the American Legion we donated $18 million dollars Nationally and volunteered over 19 million hours.

Please keep an eye out in the community. The Auxiliary can provide a Good Deed Award for children who do something for someone else. (pictured right)

They also have a Youth Hero Award for a child that provides a life saving action. If you hear about a child who does either one of these two items please let a member of your post Auxiliary know or reach out to the Department Auxiliary President.

In 1952 the American Legion created the Child Welfare Foundation. The child welfare foundation provides grants to organizations that support children nationwide. This last year they awarded over $766,000.00 in grants to organizations.

Through September 2019 the American Legion has given over 1.1 million dollars in grants to veterans and military service members through the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance program. Most of which was given to the Coast Guard during the Government shutdown. We were the only Veterans Organization that gave grants to the Coast Guard that were not expected to be paid back. Over $90,000 was given to Texas veterans and service members.

If you look at everything The American Legion accomplished think about the ripples created. There will be lives forever impacted by the actions of The American Legion family members.

Thank you!
Jason Castleberry
Department Children & Youth Chairman
903-274-0702
Why should our post be involved in The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship program?

The program is noted for developing a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. It also teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation’s laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Yes, we agree this program is important to the future leaders of our nation - how can our post get started?

That is a great question and there are many resources to help with a successful program. Here are a few.

1. A complete step by step guide to conducting an Oratorical program at post level is provided on the Department of Texas website – txlegion.org. Click on the Training tab and scroll down to the Oratorical document. You can also find more details by clicking on the Programs tab and selecting Oratorical.

2. A Chairman’s Guide and program brochure is available from the Department. Contact Mamie Hughes at mamieh@txlegion.org or call 512-472-4138. Or go to the National website legion.org/oratorical/about and print the material.

3. Each district and division has an appointed Oratorical Chair with the responsibility to promote and encourage participation in the program with posts. These leaders are skilled in the program and all you need do is ask for their help.

4. Still need help or direction? Contact Fred Rogers, frrtx@icloud.com or 972-977-9342.

Why is it called a scholarship program?

The program provides a great way for high school students that excel in the contest to earn scholarships. Some posts, most districts and divisions provide scholarship funds for the winners at their level. The department of Texas awards the following scholarships to the department finalist: 1st place - $2000, 2nd place - $1,500, 3rd place - $1,000 and 4th place = $500. The department winner will receive an additional $1,500 provided they participate in the quarter finals at the national contest. Finally, scholarship awards are presented to the 3 finalists of the national contest as follows: 1st place - $18,000, 2nd place - $16,000 and 3rd place $14,000.

School Awards Medal Program
“Encourage better citizens tomorrow – Present School Awards Today”

Why should our post be involved in the School Awards Medal Program?

The program places emphasis on developing the qualities of Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship and Service that leads to developing young people into citizens of the highest regard.

Wow! This is important program. How can our post get started?

https://legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/schoolaward.pdf will take you to a detailed outline of the program and how to administer at your post. It is one of the easiest and least expensive of all Americanism programs and highly rewarding. Since it is a post program you can develop it to fit the needs of your individual community.

In some districts and divisions, the Oratorical Chair also assumes the responsibility to encourage and promote the School Awards Medal program. These leaders are skilled in the program and all you need do is ask for their help. If you still need help you are invited to contact Fred Rogers, frrtx@icloud.com or 972-977-9342.

Why is it called a Medal program?

Medals are given at the end of the school year by the post to the boy and girl who are selected as best exemplifying the high qualities of citizenship and true Americanism.
“Centennial Celebration” is the theme of this year’s Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade. Monday, Nov. 11, 2019 will mark 100 years of Armistice and Veterans Day marches through downtown Fort Worth.

The year also marks the 100th anniversary of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Legionnaires from both national organizations will serve as co-parade marshals for this year’s march down Main Street.

The American Legion was founded on March 15, 1919, at the American Club near the Place de la Concorde in Paris, France, by members of the American Expeditionary Forces. Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization.

Texans have a long tradition of supporting The American Legion. It’s home to the first elected national commander – Henry Lindsley of Post 1 in Commerce, Texas was elected in 1919. Six other past national commanders hail from the Lone Star State.

Cowtown’s annual Veterans Day parade began as an armistice procession in 1919 to honor those who had fought in World War I. In 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day.

The Tarrant County Veterans Council is busy planning for the centenary event. A new parade website has launched (www.FW2019VetsDay.org) and the parade committee is soliciting support from individuals and organizations across North Texas.

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Making History:
Howard Gardner Post 85, Palestine, Tx

On September 14, 2019, Howard Gardner Post 85 held a public “Meet & Greet” with members of the Post, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion present. Veterans in the community were invited to stop by for a free hamburger meal, and to learn about our programs. We had a good turn-out, and are looking forward to the next one.

History was made when Vice Commander Kerrin Bates signed up to become the first male member of the local American Legion Auxiliary chapter. Vice Commander Bates is married to Donella Bates, a Navy veteran who serves as the Howard Gardner Post 85 adjutant.

In October, Post 85 will be conducting a Flag Retirement Ceremony, with the public invited to attend.

Johnnie R. Vaughn
Commander Howard Gardner Post 85

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Message from 2nd Division PR Chair

Teamwork once again comes into play in the 2nd Division. Houston and its outlaying areas got hit once again by a hurricane.

Sparked by Commander Gary Alston and his Post 658 in Crosby, members started and implemented a supply drive.

Taking advantage of ties from Hurricane Harvey, members came thru and made a difference. Tom Marty and Post 159 in Bryan opened its doors for donations and then carried the goods to our brothers and sisters in the south.

Once again, Legion taking care of its members and the community.
1919 - 2019

Celebrating our 100th Anniversary of the American Legion of Texas

LAPEL PIN..........................$ 4.00
CHALLENGE COIN............................$ 8.00
GARMENT BAG..........................$20.00
Garrison Cap Bag............................$ 8.00

Embroidered Shirts

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SM MED LARGE 2XLG............................$38.00
3XLG............................$40.00
4XLG............................$42.00

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SM MED LARGE XL
2XLG............................$38.00
3XLG............................$40.00
4XLG............................$42.00

Enter Quantity in box
TOTAL ITEMS CHECKED__________.
TOTAL AMOUNT ________________

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

The American Legion is celebrating 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.

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Renew your American Legion Membership quickly and easily online!
Simply visit the web address shown below, and follow the easy instructions.
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Quick and secure credit card payment.

www.legion.org/renew

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 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
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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
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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 1% 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 the entire 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. ²Earn 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.

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Endorsed by The American Legion
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!

George has Emergency Assistance Plus

What happens next?

They call 9-1-1 and are admitted to the hospital

Both require

George pays $0

Medical evacuation to a facility that is able to properly treat their condition

Bob pays $16,000

George pays $0

Medical specialists to monitor their care

Bob pays $400

George pays $0

Travel assistance to bring a loved one to their bedside

Bob pays $1,100

George pays $0

A driver to drive their car/ RV back home since they are unable to drive

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.

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