Message from the Commander

Just like the Founding Fathers of The American Legion back in 1919, we are the Founding Persons of the 2nd 100 years for The American Legion. How do we want to start the 2nd 100 years? Do we start by losing 3,000 members this year or do we step up to the plate and move forward by improving the membership of The American Legion?

No one should work membership by themselves. It is very difficult to have fun with membership by yourself. I have been traveling and suggesting at the conventions and posts to have fun with membership. Challenge your comrades at your post or challenge the other family members such as the American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion on who can bring in the most membership. Only process membership for two or three hours and then compete at something else like pool, darts, or cards to have fun and enjoy the comradery that will grow. Invite other posts over to compete against each other but have fun doing it.

I do not consider The American Legion as a job. I joined The American Legion to honor the memory of my Dad and for the comradeship of my fellow veterans. I have learned over the years the true meaning of being a member of The American Legion. The Founding Fathers gave us the Four Pillars. No where did they say that by supporting the Four Pillars, we were not allowed to have fun. Many times, I have heard our leaders state, "Work the programs and our membership will grow." I say, "Have fun promoting our programs and our membership will grow."

Just as having fun with the programs to increase our membership, I say let’s have fun with membership to increase membership. Enjoy each others comradeship and challenge each other and other posts on membership. We are in a unique situation, for we set the standards for the next 100 years. Do we start with a loss of membership or do we move forward and increase membership? Are we the Founding Persons of the 2nd 100 years of The American Legion? That will be determined in the next nine months.

This year will be based on FUN and Devotion to Mutual Helpfulness to support The Four Pillars and to support each other. Send your ideas to: cdrtxlegion@gmail.com and I will share them with the rest of the Department of Texas.

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
Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day always fall in the same month. No one wanted to offend any of our Marine Corps family, as November 10th is also their birthday. If my math is correct this marks 244 years. Happy Birthday, Marines.

Veterans Day originally called Armistice Day was originally established in 1918 at the end of WW I, “The War to end all wars.” The custom at the time was to hold a 1-2 minute moment of silence at 11:00 am on November 11, when the armistice was signed, as a show of respect for the roughly 15-20 million people who died in the war and those living who were left behind - generally understood to be wives, children, and families who were deeply affected by the conflict.

In the United States, instead of specifically honoring those who died in WW I, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 and honors all American veterans living and dead.

Hopefully, your posts are preparing for Veterans Day functions. This is a good occasion to honor the members that have gone before us and those still with us.

While many of us will be taking advantage of discounts graciously offered to us as veterans, we must never forget the real reason for this day, to show honor and respect to all of us as veterans. As veterans, we above all others should make sure that we give thanks to our brothers and sisters that are and have served.

Thanksgiving is one of the few days left in these modern times that families still come together. This is a day set aside to give thanks to our God for all the blessings He has given our great country. We are grateful for our families and the strength they provide us. We can be grateful that we live in a free country that allows us to be who we want to be.

We should be especially thankful for our service personnel that are in harms way and far from family for volunteering to serve and protect our country and us from harm. In this needs to be included the first responders that have left their families to work this day, allowing us to be protected.

“Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.” – Charles Dickens

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

SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY

Robert L. Harvey
Department Chaplain 2019-2020
www.texaschaplains.org
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 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!
Continuing to support the youth in the city, Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 hosted a Project Shoes event, themed “Back to the 80’s”, at the post’s event center.

Project Shoes is part of the post’s Children and Youth Program which raises funds to purchase new shoes for high school students within the post’s area of responsibility.

According to Post Cmdr. Al Alford, Legionnaire Gus Coleman approached the post’s executive committee in 2017 to begin planning Project Shoes.

“For Coleman this was a personal issue going back to when he was a youth,” said Alford. “With assistance from Guadalupe Juarez, a social worker with Highlands High School, the program was started.”

The committee, led by Coleman, consists of community volunteers consisting of Raffeal Williams, Willie Collins, Sharon Hardeman, and Helen Coleman. Members of the post’s executive committee and Unit 828 Auxiliary have assisted with every fundraiser for Project Shoes.

Additionally, Project Shoes has benefited with the assistance of renowned jazz artist Billy Ray Sheppard who donated his talents to provide entertainment at the first Project Shoes event.

“While our events are usually held at the post,” said Alford. “Sheppard hosted a special Project Shoes fundraising event at Breeze Lounge that resulted in donations of $500 and over 40 pairs of shoes.

Post 828 is helping to make students productive members of the community. This simple gesture of purchasing a new pair of shoes increases the child’s self-esteem. In turn, the results help to increases students’ attendance, and can ultimately help to increase graduation rates.

“One of our goals is to increased community awareness of the programs that Post 828 provides and shine a positive light on our post,” said Alford. “The efforts by the Project Shoes Committee and Billy Ray Sheppard along with assistance Randolph Brooks and Firstmark Federal Credit Unions have been of great assistance to our program and has increased community awareness of the good things the post is doing for the community.”

Pictured left to right: Finance Officer Jerry Farmer, Legionnaire Raffeal Williams, Eva Key, Guadalupe Juarez, Nicole Smith, Cmdr. Al Alford, and in the back, Legionnaire Gus Coleman at the Fred Brock Post 828’s Project Shoes fundraiser event held Sept. 28.
Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 located on the city’s Eastside hosted the 20th District Fall Convention at the post’s event center.

Special guests included, but not limited to, Department of Texas Cmdr. Jeff Perkins; Department of Texas Finance Officer David Paris; Department of Texas Historian Al Alford; Department of Texas Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Willis Gray; 3rd Division Cmdr. Robert Masten; 3rd Division (Sons of the American Legion) Detachment Cmdr. and 14th District Commander Rich Huntley; Past Department Cmdr. John Hince, and numerous others.

Perkins of Post 453 addressed the attendees and provided a summary of the department’s recent executive committee meeting held in Austin. He spoke on the various programs and the need to grow membership in The American Legion.

Masten of Post 10 spoke on the make-up of the division and the importance of Legion programs and reporting. He congratulated Huntley on being the number one District in the state and stated that the Division has four of the top five districts in the state.

In addition to the regular conduct of business and reporting, Post 2 Adjutant Alan Iott was elected district adjutant.

During the convention, several posts were recognized for their performance to include Post 300 which received an award from the Department of Texas for community service.

Furthermore, five candidates for district, department and national offices had the opportunity to speak.

After enjoying lunch, the attendees received training on Post Narrative History and Yearbook/Scrap Book History from State Historian Al Alford to include information on the National American Legion Media Association (NALMA).

According to Alford, it is important for posts to strictly follow the guidelines for both the narrative and yearbook/scrapbook entries.
The Joint Session of the Monthly General Membership Meeting at William M. Randolph Post 593 in Converse was held on October 2, 2019. Commander Paul Goymerac, at the podium, passed out the “Team 100 American Legion Family” 100% Ribbons. Last year’s SAL Squadron Commander, George Alva, Auxiliary Unit President Sandra Vinson and Rider Chapter Director Brad Pierce are in the front row with their respective ribbons while Adjutant Bill Nupp looks at the Post Flag with the affixed ribbon displayed by last year’s 1st Vice Commander Daniel Riggs. Fewer than five Texas Legion Post Families qualified for the special ribbon by obtaining 100% by May 31st as a Post, Unit and/or Squadron each had to achieve 100% to qualify.

El Paso, Texas Veterans Stand Down 2019

On Friday September 13, 2019, the Veterans Administration sponsored, “Veterans Stand Down”. The purpose for this event is to help the homeless veterans as well as others in need. Each one was given clothing, foot wear, perishable items, to name a few. This event is held each year to show support to those who have served our great nation. Col. Louis A. Carter American Legion Post and Unit 832, helped in cooking and serving food to those in need.

Pictured Left to Right: 4th Division President Alice Coleman, Post 2nd Vice Cdr Kina Hobson, Post Finance Officer EDWINA LANE, Post Historian Mannie Williams, and Post Service Officer Richard Britton.
Recently I have conducted several trainings on Junior Shooting Sports Program, (JSSP). These trainings have been received with great reviews and the hopes of starting other JSSP teams at posts across the state of Texas.

How do you as a post go about starting a program. To start you need to decide where you are going to host the program. If you have a post home, you can use the main hall. If no post home is available, partner with a local gun club, a member’s barn, or back yard. Set up five to six shooting points across the hall. As for a backdrop, you can build a simple one with supplies from the local hardware store, for less than a couple hundred dollars.

Rifles are the second issue. If you have six shooting points, I recommend that you have seven or eight rifles. They do break down and it’s nice to have extras. You’ll be looking for a single shot pump style. There are several on the market that work fine. The cost is in the hundred-dollar range for each rifle.

Instructors can be members or non-members and parent involvement is always welcome. A background check should be done on all instructors. Several other organizations offer instructor courses and you might want to attend one of the them. NRA has a two-day instructor’s course that is very good. Check in your community for what is offered.

Insurance is a must. The NRA offers a low-cost insurance that covers most of what could happen. You’ll also need to check with your local insurance carrier as to your post comprehensive policy and what it covers.

Overall cost of the program and how to fund raise. This program is not cheap. With that said, don’t just write it off. There are several organizations that support firearm safety and the shooting sports. Many local NRA chapters offer grants in support of this program. Midway USA is a company that supports the shooting sports with a program that grow funds for your team. They will provide a gun for a raffle. You keep half of the funds and send the other half to Midway. That money is placed in an account for your program that can be used later.

Partnering is also a way to support JSSP. Your post can’t run the program. Ok find an origination in your community that is running a shooting team. High School JROTC, 4H club, Boys and Girls scouts, church groups might have a program in place. They’ll always be happy to have the support of money or volunteers.

At the end of the day, your post can have this program. Post 159 in Bryan has had the program in place for over 7 years now. They average over 20 to 30 students on shooting nights. It has become the biggest Americanism program hosted by the post.

If you have questions, I’d be happy to fine you an answer. I’m in the Blue Book. Tom Marty Commander Post 159, Bryan Texas.
As a child did you ever wonder what it was like to be in the military? Connecting veterans with schools and classrooms gives students an opportunity to learn about life in the military, the rigors of war, and how the service of America’s veterans affected their lives and the lives of others. Students also gain a greater respect for and understanding of the veterans’ sacrifices and commitment to service. The Legion’s Veterans in the Classroom program crystallizes the true meaning of patriotism through study of real American issues and values.

Veterans of service in the United States Armed Forces have participated in many monumental events or have been eyewitnesses to them, thus putting them in a unique position to help students learn and appreciate the sacrifices and achievements of America’s service men and women. Firsthand accounts add the perspective of being there; learning from those who actually fought the battles with their lives on the line.

The interaction of veterans and students is an interaction of two generations of Americans, without the slant of media moguls and textbook academicians. Veterans who fought in the battlefields of Europe, in Vietnam, Korea and the Persian Gulf will give students a better understanding of the sacrifices our armed forces are making today by reflecting on their lives in past wars.

To organize a program, representatives of the local American Legion post should visit with school officials, specifically those educators who teach American history. Discuss how local veterans can contribute to students’ understanding of military service and its historical implications.

This meeting is important in that both parties can use the occasion to voice their concerns, their objectives and set guidelines for meeting their goals.

### Child Welfare Foundation

From the inception of our organization the American Legion realized the children of our warriors and fallen heroes needed care and support. For this very reason they made children & youth one of our four pillars. In the first few decades of the organization our founders had a focus on creating children’s homes that would care for orphans but as time went on the organization realized that the most effective way to support children was to put funds in the hands of organizations that specialized and were experts in supporting children.

So, in 1954, The American Legion created the Child Welfare Foundation to provide grants to organizations that support children. In 1955, it gave its first three grants totaling $22,500 to three organizations. The Delinquency Control Institute, the National Association for Retarded Children, and the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness were the first three beneficiaries.

Last year over $760K were given out to 24 Non-Profits and to date, over $17 million has been awarded to organizations to assist the children of this country from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.

I want to encourage every post to submit a donation to the child welfare foundation. There is no dollar better spent to support children than this program. Grants have been given to support children with birth defects, children of deployed service members, autistic children, children with diabetes and so much more.

To learn more about the Child Welfare Foundation, who received grants and how you can donate go to [http://www.cwf-inc.org/](http://www.cwf-inc.org/)
“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.
Celebrating our 100th Anniversary of the American Legion of Texas

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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.

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www.legion.org/renew

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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!

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.

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