Message from the Commander

What is an American Legion Post?

An American Legion post is a group of veterans that consecrate and sanctify their comradeship by devotion to mutually helpfulness. Each American Legion post is guided by the Four Pillars. The first Pillar is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. The Founding Fathers created The American Legion to take care of our veterans and their families. So, how does a post accomplish this? Let us look at the structure of an American Legion post.

To create a post, it requires fifteen veterans to organize the post and pay their dues. They must apply for a charter, an EIN number, create their C&BLs, and elect officers. It is that simple. Wrong!! An American Legion post is its membership, and the membership is the post. A post succeeds or fails by the actions of its membership. Over the years that I have been a member of The American Legion, I have heard over and over that a post failed because of its officers. The officers only can only fail if the membership allows them to fail. A post succeeds when the membership participates to reach the goals set by the membership. How is this done? The primary duties of the post commander are to see that the Constitution and By-Laws are observed and perform such duties as are directed by the Post (the membership). During the meeting, any motion that is passed provides the officers with the direction in which to take the post. If the membership participates – the post succeeds. If the membership does not participate or provide directions to their elected officers – then the post fails.

How does a post fail? Whose fault is it? The membership controls what happens at the post. They make the motions at the meeting that guide the officers in the performance of their duties. If a post commander ignores the wishes of the membership, then it is the responsibility of that same membership that elected him to correct him or if necessary, remove him from office. The membership is required to operate within the articles of the post Constitution and By-Laws as well as the officers.

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No one is above the C&BL's. If a post fails, it is the fault of the membership. They have full control of all actions taken by the post. If the post funds are stolen, how was the membership involved? I have been in post meetings, where the finance officer stood up and gave a finance report from a 3 x 5 inch posted note or stated here is the balance in the checking account. How does a membership accept either of these methods of a finance report and then do not ask any questions? A post finance report should report the following:

How much income was received and what for?

What were the expenditures for the month and were they authorized by the membership?

What is the remaining balance?

The post belongs to the membership and the membership is responsible for what happens to their post. The bottom line is a post succeeds or fails due to the actions or inactions of the membership.

Now back to the first Pillar that The American Legion was created for: Our obligations to our veterans and their families should never waver. It is our responsibility to ensure they are taken care. This is the time to simply say, “Thank you for your service”. So, call or visit those that might feel like they have been forgotten or having a bad day and need a pick me up comment. They earned it. The National Commander calls it a Buddy Check. I call it letting them know that their sacrifices are not forgotten, and they are not forgotten. Please take the time and make the call.

I pray that all our veterans, families and active duty personnel are safe around the world. I ask that everyone stay safe and protect yourselves as we fight this COVID-19 virus.

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
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.

- Give your article a title! 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.

- 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!
Chaplain’s Corner

This is the end of another year. This year was more tumultuous than any in recent history, since the Great Depression or World War 2. The grit of the American spirit has allowed us to handle a pandemic, riots, protests, and an election like the country has never had before.

With the coming of winter. Nature is starting to slow and to prepare for a new start. Dormant until the coming spring, for its rebirth. The days are getting shorter and outdoor activities are declining. We spend more time indoors and have time to relax and think. It is also time for us to take count of all the many blessings that we as Americans have been given. As I mentioned last year, this is when people believe almost anything is possible. We look forward to family gatherings, peace on earth, and goodwill to all. Disagreements can be put aside, family and friends come together. Children are happier and for a brief period; more obedient.

With all this year has given us to handle, remember the Persian adage, “This too shall pass”.

My prayer is that we, as Legionnaires and Americans will work together to continue to make our country and communities the great unified America our founding fathers envisioned. Take this time to rest and recharge our batteries, ready to go into the new year.

I ask that our Father keep us safe as we end this year and bravely and with confidence enter the new year.

My email address is rlh.wings@yahoo.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

American Legion Baseball Program Updates

Well baseball fans, the Baseball season is completed with the L A Dodgers winning the 2020 World Series.

This year there were 8 players, all National League players, named as MVP this season.

Cory Seagers played for the L A Dodgers this year and he is an American Legion Alumni and played for Post 115 Kannapolis NC. On The same note other players that played American Legion Baseball were David Freese who played for the St Lewis Cardinals in 2011 and Madison Bumgarner who played for the San Francisco Giants and Post 29 Caldwell County NC to name a few.

The American Legion Baseball program registers 5400 teams from all 50 States including Canada and Puerto Rico. So now is the time to start recruiting teams and players to be ready for the 2021 season. Who knows, it could be one of your players that will be the next Major League MVP!

The American Legion Department of Texas Baseball program has been around since 1926, when a team from Decatur won the state title.

We need every Post in the state to get involved within their community to sponsor a team. We can make baseball great again in the state of Texas by working with the various organizations, schools and coaches to find players and build teams.

Everyone knows that baseball is one of the American Legion programs that change lives “Just Ask”, the old pros and they will tell you, “Baseball is a game of character”. Does it achieve its purpose? Yes it does, better than any other program.

We will be available to help you, all you have to do is “JUST ASK”. You may contact me or anyone of the members listed below and they will be glad to help you.

**Our contact information:**
Don Toohey
ddt2e@rocketmail.com

Cynthia Miller
cmiller23@live.com

Espiridion Zunga
espiridion.zunga@yahoo.com

Baseball Committee Member

Baseball Director
High school students from the Frisco area recently completed registering to compete in the upcoming 2020 American Legion Post 178 Oratorical Scholarship Contest. “We have had an overwhelming response this year from students to participate in our post constitutional speech contest. In fact, the number represents an all-time high in our post’s history, “said Fred Rogers, Post 178 Commander.

Contestant registration activities were coordinated through high school counselor and teacher staffs, many of which were members of the National Speech and Debate Association.

Eighteen schools, representing public, private, and home schools, were solicited. Nine schools registered fourteen contestants. Registrations included both male and female contestants and included all grade classifications. Post 178 will accommodate ten contestants in their contest. The contest will be held at Frisco City Hall in the Council Chambers on Saturday, December 12, 2020. To enable the remaining students to compete, Post 178 coordinated with a nearby post to enable the remaining four students to participate in its contest.

*Post 159 completes the 100 Miles for Hope Challenge*

*Earl Graham Post 159 completes the 100 Miles for Hope Challenge on Veteran’s Day. 20 members of American Legion Post 159, in Bryan Texas along with 7 members of the College Station Noon Lions club walked the last mile in Veteran’s Park. At 7am on November 11th these early risers gathered to walk the last mile together.*

*They walked two laps along the Lynn Stuart Pathway and Memorial sites. The two laps passed Memorials dedicated to all the conflicts the military has been involved in. The last lap finished at the Louis L. Adams Memorial plaza and Wall of Honor. There, over 6000 names of veterans have been inscribed. This year Post 159 had the name of National Commander Bill Oxford added to the wall. Post Commander Tom Marty thanked all those who took up the challenge and put in the time to make this an overwhelming success.*
Since the beginning of 2020, The American Legion Post 593 has never rested and continues to serve their Veterans, Community, State and Nation. Covid19 may have closed our Canteen for a period of time but our Post lived up to our motto, “Do what you can when you can”. Behind the scenes, our “Veterans Helping Veterans” program never let up and we were able to help various Veterans and the Community as a whole. A few of the projects included painting an entire house in less than 6 hours, building a deck for a disabled Korean Veteran, clearing tons of brush to help the community create a fire break, and repairing several fences of Veterans in our community. In between these events, several volunteers and a gracious flooring company donated their time and money to remodel our hall. This in itself is already bringing in business that enables us to do more in the near future.

Besides our annual events like Blue Santa, Rolling Run, Scouting events, CASI Chili Cookoffs, and feeding our Veterans from Audie Murphy VA Hospital, each one of our members is proud to be called a volunteer. The selfless service of our members and their family is awesome. We could not have done it without the help from them and members in the community. The Police Department, Fire/EMS Department, and the Mayor’s office have been some of our biggest supporters. They were the eyes and ears in the community that allowed us to identify and take care of our Veterans.

As Veterans Day approached, many of us were humbled by the outpouring of support and well wishes we received. As a result of our collective support, the City of Converse recently won the prestigious Texas Municipal League Excellence Award for City Spirit. Competition was not just against all the smaller communities; other competitors included the large metropolitan areas like Dallas, San Antonio, and Houston.

Post 593’s assistance helped create that atmosphere but all of us know that this award is a direct reflection of the support, camaraderie, and teamwork provided by the entire community. This community award means a lot to Post 593 and we are elated that the State of Texas recognized Converse, Texas for all their city spirit.

We are grateful that community leaders have that trust is us and that we can help them succeed at anything we collectively do. Great job Converse, the prestigious Texas Municipal League Excellence Award for City Spirit was awarded to the most deserving City in Texas. It is a direct reflection for all of us as a whole.

Hats off to The American Legion Post 593 and the City of Converse. God Bless.
SAN ANTONIO – (Nov. 11, 2020) Fred Brock American Post No. 828, located on the city’s East Side, hosted its annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Post’s event center.

This year, in support of the 50th Anniversary of Celebrate America’s Military, the Inaugural Junior Non-Commission Officers Reception, presented by Aligned Mortgage, was held in conjunction with the ceremony.

Those attending the event were required to wear face coverings and practice social distancing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). More than 250 veterans, family members, elected officials and candidates for political office attended the event.

“During this COVID-19 era, attendance at events such as Veterans Day Ceremonies have been impacted,” said Post 828 Cmdr. Al Alford. “We appreciate all who took the time to attend and honor our Veterans.”

In May, the Post was closed and the members did not have a Memorial Day Ceremony. To honor those members of the Post who entered Post Everlasting, Cmdr. Alford laid a wreath at the Post’s Veteran’s Wall of Honor in memory of Legionnaires Willie Foster, Hardy Burrell, and Carl Johnson.

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Prior to the conclusion of the ceremony, each sponsor was presented with a certificate of appreciation from Post 828.

“Aligned Mortgage is very proud to be here amongst Veterans and their families,” said retired Navy Master Chief Paul St. Sauver, military liaison for Aligned Mortgage. “We are proud to serve as this event’s presenting sponsor and looking forward to supporting in 2021.”

After the ceremony, guests were served a BBQ meal consisting of ribs, chicken, and sausage along with potato salad, baked beans, dessert and drinks. A raffle for 2021 complimentary night stays at the Canopy by Hilton San Antonio Riverwalk and Marriott Plaza Hotel was held.

Department of Texas Cmdr. Jeff Perkins had visited Post 828 on Nov. 6 and provided a video message for the event.

“We are here to protect your benefits and the benefits for your family,” said Cmdr. Perkins. “The Junior NCOs are the future of The American Legion. Your leadership in the future will keep The American Legion moving forward.”

Post 828 thanks the following sponsors: (Silver) Moussa Temple No. 106 (Prince Hall Shriners), (Bronze) USAA, First Command, Noble Gentlemen of San Antonio, Claude W. Black Center Advisory Board, Silver Eagle Beverages, Kiolbassa Smoked Meats, Coca-Cola Southwest Texas Beverages, Canopy by Hilton San Antonio Riverwalk, Marriott Plaza Hotel, and the San Antonio Observer.

Additional supporters included H-E-B which provided gift bags for Veterans of the Post.

Special thanks to the Post’s Auxiliary, Legionnaires, and Sons of the American Legion who volunteered to setup, cook, and serve all the guests who attended the event.

Retired Navy Master Chief Paul St. Sauver, military liaison for Aligned Mortgage received a certificate of appreciation from Post 828 Cmdr. Al Alford. Aligned Mortgage served as the Presenting Sponsor of the event which was held in during the 50th Anniversary of Celebrate America’s Military.

Army Veteran Lawrence Tucker delivers BBQ meals to Veterans and guests of Post 828 during its Veterans Day Ceremony and Junior Non-Commissioned Officers Reception held during the 50th Anniversary of Celebrate America’s Military.
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.

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