



American Legion Post 379
1245 North Industrial Blvd
Bedford, TX 76021

817.267.6047
www.hebtxpost379.org

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2014

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As we head in to our final quarter of our Legion year 2013 – 2014, I am happy to report we have held the line on spending and improved our cash flow position considerably over last year. Thanks to the hard work of our Legion office team of Brian McCormick, Mike Regan and Mike Garlington.

I am pleased to announce that I will be running again for Post Commander. I would appreciate your continued support. Most of the Executive Board has indicated they will also be running. We have a good team in place and are looking for other Legionnaires to step up and get involve.

We are still looking for a permanent solution to our Saturday morning breakfast. Would you or your organization be interested in providing breakfast every Saturday morning? All proceeds would belong to the breakfast team.

Home Depot has indicated that they will be at our Post on May 1st to begin a landscaping project.

The Scouts finished their Eagle Scout project. They designed and built a permanent flag retirement site. We have committed to send 12 boys to Boys State.

We will be involved with the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Bluebonnet Cemetery. We will serve a lunch at the Post following the ceremony.

An upcoming project will be how to best accommodate both our smoking and non-smoking members. This is a tough issue to take "head on" but we must. We would like to hear from all of our members on this issue.

For God and Country,

David Eagan – Commander
dj_eagan@yahoo.com

AUXILIARY NEWS

. Unit #379 President's Comments for May 2104

There will be an ALA General Membership meeting on Thursday, May 1th at 7:00 p.m. We will be electing delegates for the Department convention at this meeting in May. We will have an ALA Executive Board meeting on May 15th at 7:00 p.m. The 12 District will have their meeting on May. Also, the Division 1 meeting will be held on May. If you plan to attend please let one of the ALA Officers know by April 6th.

Election will be held at our General Membership Meeting on May 1st. All position will be open for nomination. We need our members to step up and take charge. Your voice does count. If no one steps up to be the President of our Unit then the Auxiliary will have to give up their Charter. To be the largest Auxiliary Unit in the State of Texas and then lose our Charter because no one wants to volunteer is very sad. This Auxiliary unit has over 200 local Senior Members who are eligible for any one of the Officers' position available. You will not have to do this alone! There are many Past Unit Presidents who are willing to help mentor and guide our new Officers. But, it is up to you as Members to come to the meeting and decide! So, please plan to attend this very important Auxiliary General Membership meeting.

I am very proud of my two years as President and wish the President elect success for the coming year. Members, I want to share with you some of the things that our Unit accomplished this past year. We were able to accomplish this from our Unit's proceeds from the Auxiliary dinners / Basket Raffles, Special Program's Dinners, etc;

- Our Unit raised \$10,527 for our *Department Cancer Research MD Anderson Scholarship*.

- The Unit sent two shipments of care packages to approximately 75 soldiers overseas. Also, we sent seven boxes of coupons to our Military Families to use while overseas. The coupons were valued at \$14,207. These events were for our National Security Program.
- The unit provided 29 individuals that were in need with toys and food at Christmas. Our Unit supported 10 military families. We also supported over 500 Veterans through our Americanism Program
- The Unit collected over 1,052 Marine Toys for Tots valued at \$30,104. We also donated approximately 582 small stuffed animals which were value at \$2,910 to snowball express.
- The unit will send two girls to the Texas Bluebonnet Girls State at the Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, TX in June.
- The Unit assisted four of our members that were in needed of financial assistance. Our members volunteer to prepare food, clean, and take our Veterans to the doctors or hospital.
- The unit raised \$2,500 for our Local Scholarship Program which will provide five girls a \$500 scholarship each. The Legion and SAL also supported the Auxiliary with this program.
- The unit also supported Creative Arts, Past President's Parley and Wounded Warriors and donated \$360 to those programs.
- The unit helped with four memorial service and the Memorial Service at Blue Bonnet Cemetery. We have sent numerous flowers, plants and cards to our own Members. This past year we have lost eight of our beloved sisters.

Get your hats ready! The Auxiliary will have their annual Kentucky Derby Hat Contest on May 3rd. Anyone can participate in the hat contest. Awards will be given out. Please bring finger foods or snacks. We will start at 2:00 p.m. So come on out and have as much fun as we did last year.

Please plan to join us for our Memorial Service at Bluebonnet Cemetery in Colleyville on Monday, May 26th.

The Auxiliary will need volunteers for the following activities:

- Wednesday, May 21st at 7:00 p.m. – Volunteers needed to help staple the Poppy

Story to our 2014 Poppy. Please contact Mary Hall or just plan to be at the Post.

- Monday, May 26th – Volunteers needed to sign up Legion Family and other Organizations that will be placing wreaths during the Memorial Day Ceremony at Bluebonnet Cemetery.
- Saturday, May 24th – Volunteers needed to help the Scouts to place flags on Veteran's graves at the following Cemeteries: Arwin, Minters Chapel and Bedford. We will meet at our Post #379 at 8:30 a.m. and return around 11:00 a.m. Please contact Karen Burks at 817-235-5715.
- Saturday, May 24th – Volunteers needed to pass out our Poppy's in front of the Post. Please sign up for one hour increments from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a sign up sheet on the Auxiliary Bulletin Board at the Post. You may also contact Mary Hall at 817-980-1900.
- Monday, May 26th at 9 a.m. – Volunteers needed to help pass out our Poppy Story and Poppy during the Bluebonnet Memorial Day Service. Please contact Mary Hall.
- Monday, May 26th – Volunteers needed to bring side dishes to our Post Memorial Luncheon after the Bluebonnet Memorial Day Service. Please contact Doris Hammond.

God bless each of you and thank you for supporting our past, present and future Veterans.

Karen Burks – Unit 379 President
817-235-5717 Karen_Burks@verizon.net

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

CELEBRATING & SERVING OUR VETERANS

Ladies we are at 94.5%, 26 members short of our goal. THANK YOU to all of you who have already renewed. However, there are 53, 2013 members who have not renewed for 2014. If you do not have your 2014 card, you have lost your club privileges and must sign the guest book when you come in, even if your husband has renewed.

Ladies, our goal is to support our veterans, our troops and our community. Remember who you joined under? You can renew to show them and our veterans that you appreciate their service. Please take a moment to write your check for your 2014

membership. The Auxiliary raises more than \$14 million every year to support VA Medical Centers, veterans, their families and community programs. It is not too late to continue your support of our programs. We want to again be the largest auxiliary unit in Texas to show our troops and our veterans WE CARE. We cannot do this without your support.

A big thank you to the following members for bringing in and signing up new members for 2014. Kari Akerman, Barbra Bawolak, Dee Brennan, Karen Burks, CC Cantrell, Ann Cokefield, Stephanie Cox, Judy Davidson, Judy Evans, Diana Gillespie, Doris Hammond, Dorothy Harris, Deborah Kane, Sharon Nesteriak, Tillie Owens, Brenda Stackhouse, Sheryl Stroschein, and Ruth Zymroczek. YES, there is still time to sign up new members. Thanks for talking about us!

OUR MAY BABIES: Julie Lewis; Donna Pate; Tammy Booth; Devin Simpkins; Susan Soltis; Nancy Wendt; Michele Nowicki; Mary Guzman; Rita Scott; Jan Callahan; Denise Higdon; Patti Looney; Shirley Morrow; Emma Jean Phillips; Becky Regan; Gladys Boone; Kay Heller; Kayla Ryan, Jr. Aux.; Lorraine Vink; Bailee Wade, Jr. Aux.; Elizabeth Boswell; Melanie Owens, Jr. Aux.; Emily Rogers, Jr. Aux.; Mackenzie Woods, Jr. Aux.; Hailey Dupriest, Jr. Aux.; Melinda Fry, Jr. Aux.; Maya Rose Gibbs, Jr. Aux.; Tess Bay, Jr. Aux.; Aiyanna Robinson, Jr. Aux.; Corrine Scott, Jr. Aux.; Sheridan Torres, Jr. Aux.; Sierra Torre, Jr. Aux.; Cynthia Habeck; Gisela Marschal; Sharon Nesteriak; Kayden Bacon, Jr. Aux.; Avery Bowen, Jr. Aux.; Linda Hall; Corey Rother; London Menton; Megan Sheriff; Patricia Loller; Diana Ibanez; Joan McCormick; Cathy LeFerney; Mackenzie Belair; Denice Gray; Kennedy Goodson, Jr. Aux.; Christi Barraclough.

Service Not Self - For Our Veterans
alatexas.org

Mary Hall, Membership Chairman
817/980-1900 - gmhandb@att.net

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Our monthly Steak Dinner will be served on the 10th. The cooks for the evening will be Debbie McKee and crew. The cost will be \$15. Thank you for your support.

Ron Mick - Chef de Gare VL 1185

SAL NEWS

The May Fish Fry will be on Saturday May 3rd. Come down for a great meal for only \$10. Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 8th at 7pm.

Thanks to everyone who came down and took part in the Crawfish boil for veteran Rick Shawl. Everyone had a great time.

Don't forget that Memorial Day ceremonies will be held at Bluebonnet on the 26th. If you have never been, please come and be part of it. Lunch will be served at the Post after.

For God and Country.

Jeff Meurer, Jr
SAL Squadron Commander

Regular events for the month:

Sunday – Happy Hour Prices all day
Monday – Special prices for the ladies
Tuesday – \$1.00 Draft all day
Thursday – 1st Thurs General membership 7pm
2nd Thurs 40 & 8 7pm
2nd SAL Meets at 7pm
3rd Thurs Legion Executive Board 7:00pm
Friday – See calendar for dinner & entertainment
Saturday – Breakfast Buffet 8:30am
Shuffleboard 2:00 PM
SAL Meat Raffle 2:30pm
See calendar for dinner & entertainment

PEER TO PEER PTSD SUPPORT

A peer-to-peer group support group has begun meeting at our Post on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. The meetings last for about an hour and all are welcome. They offer support for PTSD, TBI, MST and other trauma. This could be a great source of support for yourself or a loved one. For additional information contact Red Green at 214-457-2715.

2014 ROGER HOOG GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual tournament will be held May 19th at Riverside Golf Club. See flyer for details. Hope to see you there!

REMEMBER MOTHER'S DAY MAY 11TH