



American Legion Post 379
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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year's celebration. We had a successful 2016 and look forward to an even better 2017. As usual we have another busy month ahead with many events that need your participation. Thursday the 5th is General Membership meeting at 7:00 PM. I would like to do an Initiation of any new members that have not been sworn in to the American Legion at this meeting. Thursday the 19th will be Executive Board meeting at 7:00 P.M. The Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo starts on the 14th with a Parade honoring Vietnam Veterans. A Veterans appreciation night will be held and two free tickets to Veterans with proof of service, via military ID, VA ID, Etc.

I ask again for your continued cooperation in making Post #379 a welcoming & fun Post for all our members, and especially new members. We are currently at roughly 982 of our membership goal of 1217 keep working as we still need 235 just to reach goal. We still need new Honor Guard members contact the First Vice-Commander Mike Sivers to join. We still need new Legion Riders members Contact Joey Cook Legion Riders Director if interested. We can become the largest American Legion Post in Texas again if each of you recruit members, and you are willing to assist in keeping new members.

I would like to commend the Auxiliary and all who worked last month with Toys for Tots, and shipping items to our deployed local Texas military members outstanding effort by all involved that helped support these worthy causes.

We are still raising funds from Legion hats, koozies', and t-shirt sales. Your continued support for your post with your purchases is important to the Post's

success. I ask your support making FRIDAY'S RED FRIDAY'S to Remember Everyone Deployed. I would love to see the Post in a complete **RED OUT** on Fridays to show support for the people we have in harms way. I request support on Saturdays to wear BLUE to support our first responders.

For God and Country

Dennis Gossett – Commander

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AUXILIARY NEWS

Wow, here we are, being so blessed to be here and see the new upcoming year, 2017!

I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas season and now be ready for our new year.

I must take a few minutes to brag about what all our Auxiliary accomplished in December for our veterans!

We adopted 18 Angels from the VA Clinic and each one of them had a pretty good Christmas. Thank you to all that adopted and helped.

Next, the Toys for Tots broke last year's record with 1,750 toys and \$540.00 donated. Way to go!! It was colder than we thought it would be, but it all turned out beautifully. Thank you!

We also had our annual box out at the Post for our troops. Everyone came through and we sent 14 total boxes to Afghanistan, which all three troops were based in Texas. I hope that we hear from them as we included a letter in each destination this year. Hopefully, will have something to report in the upcoming months.

We have so many new members from last month. Please take a minute and introduce yourself to those

new members! It just makes our "family" so much better! And I will let you know that we have the best "family" in the District!!!! Hands down!

Our Mid-Winter Convention in Austin will be the last weekend of the month. If any of you would be interested in going, please let any of our Officers know so we can sign you up! It's a very learning, interesting time among friends, either old or new.

As you know, or may I remind you, this is my last year as your President. Our Constitution and Bylaws state that a President can only serve 2 consecutive years, and this is my 3rd. So, please consider stepping up and sharing your ideas and time for the most awesome organization in the world.

Thank you for all each and every one of you for all you do. I cannot thank each and every one of you enough. We help so much, every day in one way or another.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 5th at 7:00. Please try to come and be a part of our planning of everything we try to do for our veterans. God Bless you all and thank goodness for 2017! Let's do this!!

It's our Service that makes such a difference.

Kathy Bigley – Unit President
bigley.kathy@yahoo.com 817-353-6918

LEGION 1ST VICE UPDATE

"Happy New Year" to everyone and may 2017 be a healthy and prosperous one for you and your families to include our Legion family of course. As our membership grows so should our interactions to facilitate making our Post the place every Veteran would want to be. It is so important to promote an environment that is welcoming to everyone.

Speaking of membership: We currently have a total of 986 vs. our 2017 goal of 1217 members. That equates to 81% of goal which puts us right on target for January. From here on out the other 19% is a tremendous challenge. It is so important that each member recruit just one person. If even a small percentage of you did that we would exceed our goal without even blinking. So please do what you can.

Our Honor Guard is still looking for some additional members so if you have an interest contact myself or the Commander. We continue to get requests for numerous events and anticipate many more this spring and summer. We are honored to appear and promote the image of the American Legion and to provide the

dignity and respect to our Veterans and their families when called upon.

Till next time, I wish you all the best and hope to see you and a new member (you brought) at the Post.

"For God and Country"

Mike Sivers - 1st Vice Commander
Ph: 469-268-2052 Al_post379@att.net

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone. Let's hope for a fantastic year full of new friends and joy.

LaHonda Meier you are instructed to get well as we need you back.

Welcome home Jose, Glen and C.C. (although she is still in need of some prayers for a quick healing.)

Commander is under the weather, we wish the Gossett's a speedy recovery.

Let's have the word of the month be "Spectacular", have a spectacular Post 379 month.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, in God and Country....

For God and Country....Markham

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

Ladies we are at 66% of our 519 goal for 2017. Thank you to all who have renewed. As of January 1, 2017, if you have not renewed your membership your club privileges have expired. You can leave your \$31.00 with the bartenders and they will make sure I get it.

We are striving to reach our ONE MILLION MEMBER GOAL by 2019. We need to continue to blow our own whistle about who and what we do for OUR VETERANS. I know YOU can make the difference. Remember Junior members, under 18, are paid by your Auxiliary. Be sure to sign up those new granddaughters and great-granddaughters that have arrived in the family. Step-children are also included. Rewards down the road include potential scholarships and Girls State in the state where they live. Just ask the bartenders or an auxiliary member for an application. Keep them coming ladies.

Re-join a member who has not paid their dues since 2014, you will receive a Rejoin 1 button and your name placed in a drawing at national for \$100.00

Recruit 1 New Senior or Junior member, you will receive a Recruit 1 button and your name placed in a drawing at national for \$100.00

Recruit 10 or more New Junior or Senior members, you will receive an ALA pad-folio and placed in a drawing for \$250.00.

Recruit 25 or more New Senior members and receive a special gift from National President Sharon Conatser.

Thank you to all of you who have been including your email address with your renewal payment. We use this to update you on current up-coming events and our chaplain's notices.

If you would like to pay up for life and not worry about increases, see below. Payments may be divided after first 10% down, with final payment due February 28, 2017.

Age	Amount	Age	Amount
18-24	\$ 1,110.00	25-29	\$ 1,059.00
30-29	\$ 1,007.00	30-39	\$ 1,007.00
50-59	\$ 767.00	60-69	\$ 612.00
70-79	\$ 451.00	80 Plus	\$ 296.00

Effective July 1, 2010, Department Texas

Theresa Winslow - Membership Chairman

SON'S SYNOPSIS

We would like to start off this month's article by thanking Gisela for cooking for the squadron in December!

During our last membership meeting, we voted on and installed a new First Vice Commander and Sergeant-At-Arms, and we learned about the Five Point Program of Service. During this year's Toys for Tots drive, the squadron contributed enough funds and items that totaled 278 unwrapped toys for needy children. Our current membership is at 77% (we should be at 50% at this time) of our 2017 goal of 146.

Don't forget to join us on 06 January at 6:30 pm for the First Friday Fish Fry and every Saturday at 2:30 pm for our meat raffle. Our next general membership meeting is Thursday, 12 January at 7pm. We are scheduled to revisit our annual charitable contributions and learn about the Ten Ideals of the Sons of The American Legion.

This month's Josh Dog story is about Sarah. One afternoon, the Cook Children's outpatient lab asked if therapy dog Ralph Lauren could come and meet a

highly anxious patient. When Ralph arrived, Sarah was tearful and used every excuse in the book not to have her blood drawn. Ralph and his handler, Kizzy, were able to help distract Sarah. As Sarah threw treats to Ralph with her right arm, the lab drew blood from her left. Instead of crying or fighting, Sarah laughed at Ralph's antics. About two weeks later, Sarah was back for another blood draw. Since Ralph already had a previously scheduled appointment that day and wouldn't be able to spend much time with Sarah, Kizzy grabbed a Josh Dog to help with the situation. Again, Sarah was tearful and tried to come up with different ways to avoid having her blood drawn. So, Kizzy presented Sarah with Josh which thrilled the patient and her mom. Sarah held Josh tight and also tossed treats to Ralph as her blood was drawn. When it was done, Ralph left immediately for his next appointment and was unable to stay and play. Unfazed, Sarah said that it was ok for Ralph to leave because she had Josh. It's a wonder if Ralph will be called next time Sarah comes to lab!

Happy New Year and Charlie Mike!

Joseph Campbell

Squadron 379 Commander

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LEGION RIDERS

Greetings! The Riders had another fantastic month. We cooked breakfast for the Toys for Tots Drive and it was a success as usual. Unfortunately, our "Fireball" (Lahonda Meier) went down on her motorcycle and broke her ankle during the ride. Your continued prayers for healing are much appreciated. We had four bikes that participated in the Texas Toy Run on December 18th and it was COLD – 17 degrees when we left. We donated approximately 100 toys to this great cause. Even our Junior Rider and Junior Auxiliary Member, Mike Lass (11 years old), made the entire ride on the back of her father's motorcycle. The Riders will be back cooking breakfast twice this month – on Saturday, January 7th and on Saturday, January 21st so we look forward to seeing you all there. Additionally, the Riders will also be cooking dinner on Friday, January 13th. Joey "Crash" Cook will be making his world-famous beef enchiladas, refried beans and Spanish rice with a Sopapilla Cheesecake for desert. The cost is \$10 and the proceeds will go towards the remainder of the funds we need for Boys State. Having said all this, we look forward to another successful month thanks to all of you, our supporters. Be safe and keep the rubber side down!

Joey "Crash" Cook, Director