

The American Legion

William M. Randolph, Post 593 326 Legion Drive West, Converse, TX 78109 (210) 658-1111

Email: Post593tx@yahoo.com Website: http://www.Post593.org





May 2024

Hours of Operation

Mon-Fri: 2 pm—9 pm Sat: 12 pm — 9 pm Sun: 12 pm — 6 pm

(May remain open after posted closing times to serve customers)

Post Home Manager: Tracy Diggs Newsletter Editor: Ray Baker raybaker013@yahoo.com

Post 593 Officers:

Commander: Jack Leanhart
1st Vice: Ed Richards
2nd Vice: Tracy Burkett-Velez
Adjutant: Kellie Warrell
Finance: Ray Barger
Chaplain: George Alva
Judge Advocate: Dave Paris
Historian: Bill Nupp
Service Officer: Brad Martin
Sgt At Arms: Tracy Burkett-Velez
Hubmaster: Dennis Ducharme
Members at Large: Peter Paul Johnson, Alex Linares, Bill MacAllister, Ken
Rodd

Auxiliary Officers: President: Robin Alva

President: Robin Alva
Vice President: Rosie Cherry
Secretary:
Treasurer: Sue Buckley
Historian: Sandy Vinson
Chaplain: Catherine Olsen
Sgt At Arms: Tami Cox
Members at Large:
Donna Linares, Catherine Olsen,
Audrev Woodruff

Sons of the American Legion:

Commander: Bill Cox 1st Vice: Rick Moe 2nd Vice: Mikey Wilson Adjutant: David Paris Finance: Rick Moe Chaplain: George Alva Historian: Adam Bales Sgt At Arms: Brad Martin Judge Advocate: Henry Creech Members At Large: Michael Potter. Ken Rodd

ALR Officers:

Director: Ed Richards
Asst Director: Paul Goymerac
Secretary: Paula Johnson
Finance: Robin Alva
Road Captain: Sean Lowder
Safety Officer: Josh Blevins
Membership: Amy Reed
Sgt At Arms: Robert Hendricks
Chaplain: George Alva
Service Officer: Daniel Riggs
Historian: Brandon Riggs
Members at Large: Rob Henkel,
Michael Schumann, Matt Scott, Greg
Spatz



Commander's Comments

Hello, Post 593,

Yet another month has passed us by and we continue to do what we do; we volunteer diligently so we

can help veterans and their families, work with community leaders, and support the ideals of The American Legion. It is these things that make me proud to be a member of this great organization and I sincerely hope each of you feel the same.

Where did your Legion life originate? Mine began many years ago in my hometown in Montana. My father was a veteran of World War II and was the epitome of a patriot. He had been a member of our local Post 42 long before I was born, helping wherever he could. When Post 42 needed a new building they purchased the old theater, and my father led the team of members to completely remodel it into the Legion as it is now. I became a member of The Sons of the American Legion early and went on to be sponsored to Montana Boys State in the summer of 1979. (Sorry for indicating my age!) This is an example that small towns have valuable Posts, too. Every American Legion Post is important! So, I hope you take a moment and reflect on the events that brought you to The American Legion, specifically Post 593. Everyone of you is important to our great organization and joined for a reason.

I was recently reminded of a simple, yet meaningful speech given by a Navy Admiral several years ago. Although it does not mention the Legion and is not directly focused in our direction, I think all of you will enjoy listening to it. ! (Continued on page 2, Post Commander)



Auxiliary News

Howdy! Membership is the life blood of any organization. If you believe in advocating for our veterans, joining the

American Legion Auxiliary ensures that there is a unified, comprehensive voice advocating for our veterans. Your membership dues support all of the ALA programs, such as Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Cancer Research, and Children & Youth. Without your membership, we as a unit, are not able to accomplish our goals. So, please. If you have not renewed your membership for 2024, please do so today. If you know someone that is eligible to join our organization, please reach out to them and get them to join. Also, did you know? If you have a daughter or granddaughter, under the age of 18, she can join for free? Just submit an application and our unit will pay her dues until she turns 18. We are currently short about 40 members to reach our goal. Please support our ALA.

"From the battlefields of World War I, weary soldiers brought home the memory of a barren landscape transformed by wild poppies, red as the blood that had soaked the soil. By that miracle of nature, the spirit of their lost comrades lived on. The poppy became a symbol of the sacrifice of lives in war and represented the hope that none had died in vain. The American Legion Auxiliary poppy has continued to bloom for the casualties of four wars, its petals of paper bound together for veterans by veterans, reminding America each year that the men and women who have served and died for their country deserve to be remembered. The poppy, as a memorial flower to the war dead, can be traced to a single individual, Moina Michael. She was so (Continued on Page 2, Auxiliary President)

(Continued from page 1, Post Commander)

Click on this link to view it for yourself. It is worthwhile listening again if you have already seen it.

https://youtu.be/TBuIGBCF9jc?si=ZhKeRkSXh_FLg5hS (you can reach the video by using Ctrl + Click on this link to play)

This is great motivational speech that all can take something away from it. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

I want to extend my congratulations to the members of our American Legion Riders that traveled to Schulenburg to compete in a BBQ cookoff with other ALR Chapters. They brought home 1st Place in Ribs and Brisket! This allows them to host the competition next year. I am looking forward to the events that weekend. Way to Go, RID-ERS!

As always, our many volunteers came forward to handle our monthly breakfast and steak night. Thank you! Yet another demonstration of the strength of volunteers.

The process of electing officers is nearing an end. You can still make a difference if you wish by nominating a member from the floor during our May General Membership Meeting. Please, read the article by our Judge Advocate for specifics.

We have surpassed our membership goal through the diligent efforts of many people including our 1st Vice Commander, Ed Richards and our Adjutant, Kellie Warrell. However, our work is not complete: we still need more New Members to qualify for the Post Excellence Award at the next Department Convention. We can still do it.

I will talk to all of you again soon. Always keep veterans and their families in your thoughts.

Jack Leanhart Commander The American Legion Post 593

(Continued from page 1, Auxiliary President)

moved by Lt. Col. McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Fields," that she wrote a response:

.. the blood of heroes never dies But lends a luster to the red Of the flower that blooms above the dead In Flanders' Fields.

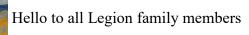
On impulse, she bought a bouquet of poppies – all that New York City's Wanamaker's Department Store had – and handed them to businessmen meeting at the New York YMCA where she worked. She asked them to wear the poppy as a tribute to the fallen. That was November 1918. World War I was over, but America's sons would rest forever "in Flanders' Fields." Later she would spearhead a campaign that would result in the adoption of the poppy as the national symbol of sacrifice." (From the National Website)

May is poppy month. Please come out and support your American Legion Auxiliary's efforts to raise money for our veterans.

Thank you.

Robin E. Alva President, ALA Unit 593

SALute From the Squadron Commander



The S A L membership is going good as of March 2024 we are at 104 of 129 for 88.4 %, anyone who has not renewed, now would be a good time. If you are S A L only dues are \$15.00 until

October, after that it's \$25.00. If you are a dual member it's \$15,00.

We will still have Chicken Fried Steak in August, and October. The cost will be \$13.00. A S.A.L. sponsored dinner will occur in June and September, the menu and pricing will be advertised at a later date. October will be our Early Bird Dinner for those renewing memberships before the dinner.

The July Dinner has been given to our Boy Scout Troop to continue to help them financially and to help them learn how to run events, so come out to support them.

If anyone needs, or knows of, someone in need of prayers please notify George Alva.

Please remember that it is up to all of us to try to bring in new members. Scroll down to the end of the newsletter to get our Facebook page.

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting on May 21st @ 7pm or 19:00.

Bill Cox

Squadron Commander

Riders Report

Greetings to all the Riders and veterans.

As my time dwindles down as the Director of the American Legion Riders Chapter 593, I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support to the Riders and veterans. We have accomplished a lot in the past year and it's not because of any one individual, it's due to the dedication,

hard work, and selfless service by all of you. You should be proud of yourselves and elated to be an integral part of such a noble organization.

The month of May will be busy as we support other fundraisers of area ALR Chapters. We also will be actively planning to be prepared for the June State Rally in Mt. Vernon, TX. If you are interested, please attend one of our May meetings to receive all the details of the State Rally. The State Rally will be in Mt. Vernon, TX and we will have kickstands up early on Friday, 14 June, returning to the Post on 17 June in the afternoon. All are welcome and if you are reading this and are members of another ALR Chapter, feel free to contact Ed at ed.richards@comcast.net if interested in riding with us. All lodging and safety issues have been locked in and all we are waiting on are the final numbers of riders who will make this long ride.

I wish everyone a great Spring and look forward to serving you in another capacity tied to the American Legion. The election books at Post 593 will be picked up at COB on Tuesday 30 April, and then elections will be forthcoming in June. Please help us help others by remaining a member of Chapter 593.

God bless our veterans and keep the rubber on the road and a smile on your face.

Ed "Mr. Gadget" Richards

ALR Director



From Post Judge Advocate:

Elections are coming up. For those new to the Post, here's some guidelines:

The Post (Legion members) use a Nomination Book from April 1st thru April 30th. The books are in the canteen area. Members can be nominated at the May General Membership Meeting (GMM) which will be Wednesday, May 1^{st)}. Any new nominees must be present and accept at the meeting and/or have written acceptance--which can be text, email etc. Should we end up with only one nominee for a Position other than Members at Large which allows for more than one in our Post, once the position is closed to nominations at the May GMM, the membership may move for all unopposed positions to be elected by acclimation at that meet-

ing. All positions that have two candidates or more will be on the ballot on election day. This year that is Wednesday, June 5th. Our Post authorizes all "business" day election voting until the start of the meeting. No nominations can be accepted—only write-in votes. This is unique to Post 593 and was changed over 20 years ago to allow anyone working shifts or unable to make the meeting to have a voice in the next year's leadership. This means voting is allowed from 2 p.m. until 6:59 p.m. on June 5th. Exercise your right to vote! And yes, please bring your 2024 membership card with you to show the clerks.

Health and Wellness Advocacy Program

Goal: We the attending Brothers and Sisters of All Military Families, Services and like minded associates, gather together for the purpose of addressing the needs and humanity of our brothers and sisters, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters to prevent the issues facing our humanity. We wish to address mental wellness, suicide, PTSD, elder/child abuse, and the insensibility of community. We wish to enlist local community leaders to include local government, law enforcement, fire and EMS first responders to cross-train in the effort to improve our humanity and future civilizations. We as humans are supposedly the most intelligent and creative, actively demonstrate the false pride, of not knowing/asking for help, when needed. Nor do we recognize the present needs of others in striving, to improve the future, we standing together, are required to stand and take action to correct this now, while we still can. We will utilize all available resources and interactions, to meet these challenges, for the sake of us all.

Billy T. Pearce, LVN, US Army Vet, American Legion Post 593 and ALR 593 First Chair, Health and Wellness Advocacy Committee

A Note from your Editor: The Following article is a reprint from the July 2023 Newsletter. I strongly feel this is important information for us. I want to ensure we, in the back of minds, know there is a checklist we can use as a tool when a love one moves on. With Memorial Day as May's primary holiday it seemed this would be the best time to reprint it. Thanks Brad.

A Checklist of Tasks after a Veteran's Death

A List of People to Notify and Places to Contact

The first step to receiving assistance and benefits for a Veteran's death is to report it to the appropriate agencies. If unsure, call anyway. Expect to give the Veteran's full name and Social Security Number. In order to avoid overpayments the survivors should contact the below numbers within 30 days or sooner, if possible.

The time immediately following the death of a loved one can be overwhelming, with grief and bereavement complicated by a seemingly endless number of tasks. The immediate days following the death will be focused on the funeral or memorial service arrangements. Soon after however, various financial and legal issues must be addressed. Many people find it very difficult to be sure they have taken care of everything. The following is a list of tasks that are likely to need attention.

Your best option for help is your County Veteran Service office.

- For a Veteran, you may be able to get financial assistance with the funeral, burial plot, or other benefits. For information on benefits you can call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-827-1000. You may also receive information and assistance in applying for burial benefits by contacting your County Veterans Service Office (CVSO). You will need a copy of your loved one's discharge papers (DD214) to apply for these benefits.
- Obtain 10-15 copies of the Death Certificate. Speak to the funeral home or your County Veteran Service Office for contact information in your area.
- If your Veteran received Social Security benefits, notify your local Social Security office of the death, since these benefits will stop. Overpayments will result in a difficult process of repayment. If you are a surviving
- ask about your eligibility for increased benefits. Also, check on benefits that any minor children may be entitled to receive. You may call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Contact the health insurance company or employer regarding terminating coverage for the deceased while continuing coverage for others covered through the policy.
- Contact the life insurance company(ies) for all life insurance policies. You will need to provide the policy number and a copy of the death certificate and fill out a claim form. If the deceased is listed as the beneficiary on any other policy, arrange to have the name removed. If the Veteran was enrolled in the Service member's Group Life Insurance plan (SGLI), Veteran's Group Life Insurance (VGLI), or Service-Disabled Veteran's Insurance (S_DVI) call the VA at 1-800-419-1473.
- If retired military, call the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) at 1-800-538-9552.
- If the Veteran is a military retiree, the Defense Finance and Accounting service should be notified by calling the Retiree Casualty Section of the DFAS at 1-888-332-7411. You can also file DFAS Form 9221 online using DFAS's Fast Form option at https://www.dfas.mil/retired military/forms.html. If the Veteran is alsi a current or retired federal civilian employee, the Office of Personnel Management should be notified by calling 1-888-767-6738.

- The VA should be notified depending on the benefits the Veteran was receiving or the programs the veteran was enrolled in. If the Veteran was receiving disability compensation or a pension, call the Veteran's Benefits Administration at 1-800-827-1000.
- If the Veteran was enrolled in a VA-sponsored life insurance policy call the VA at 1-800-669-8477.
- If the Veteran was enrolled in the Service member's Group Life Insurance Plan (SGLI), Veteran's Group Life Insurance (VGLI), or Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) call the VA at 1-800-419-1473.
- If the deceased was working, contact the employer for information on pension plans, credit unions and union death benefits. You will need a certified copy of the death certificate for each claim.
- Return credit cards of the deceased with a certified copy of the death certificate, or notify the credit card company if you, as the survivor, want to retain the use of the card.
- Seek the advise of an accountant or tax advisor about filing the deceased's tax return for the year of the death. Keep monthly bank statements on all individual and joint accounts that show the account balance on the day of the death, since you will need this information for the estate tax return.
- Arrange to change any joint bank account into your name. If the deceased's estate is in trust, check with the Trust Department or Customer Service at the bank.
- If the deceased owned a car, transfer the automobile title into your name at the Secretary of State's Office, or if the estate is probated, through Probate Court.
- Arrange to change stocks and bonds into your name. Your bank or stock broker will have the forms.
- Make sure the important bills, such as mortgage payments, continue to be paid.
- Contact the County Veteran Service office for possible application for survivor's benefits such as Dependency Indemnity Compensation or Survivor's Pension.

Documents you may need to complete the tasks:

- Death Certificates (10 15 certified copies)
- Social Security Card
- Marriage Certificate
- Birth Certificate
- Birth Certificate for each child, if applicable
- Insurance Policy/Policies
- Deed and Titles to Property
- Stock Certificates
- ♦ Bank Books/Account Numbers
- Honorable Discharge Papers for a Veteran (DD Form 214)
- Recent Tax Forms
- Automobile Title and Registration Papers

Loan and Installment Payment Books and/or Contracts

The Fourth Pillar-

Children and Youth

Troop 593 spent April working service to our Earth. April 12—14 they spent performing service projects at Anton Schumann Nature Center, Converse, Texas. They planted trees and did some trail maintenance. Additionally they were the Color Guard and presented the National Flag at the "Converse Goes Green" event. Afterward they manned a booth and demonstrated their leather craft and paracord abilities. (Thank you Mr. Dale of American Legion 593 for the paracord and looms, they are a great hit!)



To the left: Troop 593 presenting the colors at the Converse Goes Green event.

To the right: Troop 593 making and selling Paracord Bracelets.



May starts off with two scouts going before their first promotion boards (Board of Review) where they sit before a panel of adults, review their progress thus far and look to see where they are going in their future in scouting. One other scout will go for his "Life Scout" Board of Review, his next one will be Eagle.

Three scouts are attending Merit Badge University at St. Mary's University where they will get a taste of university life while earning merit badges. Huntsville State Park is where the troop will be camping this month. The troop saw its first alligator in the wild two years ago when we camped there, the scouts are looking forward to seeing another (although I am not so sure about the parents being excited to see it). Memorial Day is a busy day for the troop as we present the colors at the Converse Memorial Day Celebration and conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony as well, in the morning and then conduct another Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Post at 6:00 p.m. All are invited.

A BIG Thank You to the SAL for letting the troop conduct the second Friday meal in July. These dinners not only help our scouts earn money for their scouting adventures but also gives them an understanding of earning their way through life. We, as parents and grandparents, do a great job of giving our kids what they need, sometimes too much so. The real gift the SAL and Post are giving the scouts is a view of what they need to do in life to make things happen, what mom and dad do at work and why they do it. So thank you all so much for giving them this platform to learn.



Troop 593 planting a dozen trees at Anton Schumann Nature Center. Trees donated by CPS.

May

Monday		Wednesday 1 Build Your Own Hot Dog Dinner—5:30 Post GMM 7pm	Thursday 2 Dart League 7 pm	Friday 3 Tacos & Margari-	Saturday 4
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		Dog Dinner—5:30			4
		Post GMM 7pm		tas 5:30-7:30 pm	
		Auxiliary Mtg 7pm	Pool League 8 pm Nat'l Day of Prayer Fire House #3, 6 p.m.		
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The American Legion William M. Randolph, Post 593

326 Legion Drive, West Converse, TX 78109 210-658-1111 / www.Post593.org

Flags on Town Square Registration Form

How to Sponsor a Flag

- > \$100 per year payable to American Legion Post 593
- Businesses can "Sponsored By"
- > Individuals can "In Memory of"
- Proceeds support flag replacements, signs, and Veterans Programs.
- Displayed 6 times a year: Presidents' Day - 20 Feb Memorial Day - 29 May Flag day - 14 June Independence Day - 4 July

Displayed with a personalized placard

Labor Day - 4 Sep Veterans Day - 11 Nov

> Displayed in front of Converse City Hall on Sequin St.

Ducharme @ 210.630.0655 to become a sponsor!







Name	Phone #
Address	
Paid by Cash/Check	Date
Email	To Be Placed on Sign
Received \$from:	Receipt
For sponsorship for The American Legion, Post 593	Date 's Flags on Town Square program for 2023.
Received by:	



210-658-1111/www.Post593.org

Post Home Manager's Message

Thank you to the Post leadership for their unwavering support and a very special thank you to you, our loyal customers. This wouldn't be possible without you. You are our friends and we enjoy seeing you every time you walk through the door.



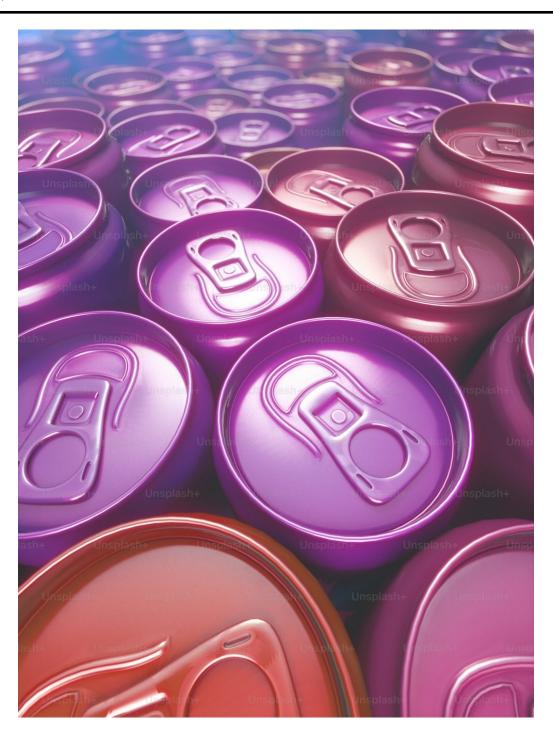


We have an amazing hall for rent for all of your special events such as weddings, quinceaneras, birthdays, anniversaries, reunions, etc. For information or to schedule your party please reach out to me, Tracy Diggs at (210) 658-1111. Tell your friends!



Surprise a friend with a Drink Chip for our Cantina!

Thank you so much by helping us in our past can drives to bring in needed funds for the Post. However it is no longer profitable and it brings in rodents to our area. We request you help us again by <u>not</u> bringing in your cans but recycle them through some other means. Again, Thank You so much!



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 593 UP-COMING EVENTS

Friday, May 3rd (5:30 PM – 7:30 PM)

Tacos & Margaritas

Tacos, rice, beans and dessert - \$10.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

All proceeds will go to Veteran Programs!!

We appreciate your Support!!



The Newsletter will dedicate the space above to the memory of loved ones who have left this world much too soon. The criteria is as follows: The deceased must be a member of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion Riders, or an immediate family member of such. Specifically, the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of a member. Please inform the Newsletter Editor directly or through one of the chaplains.

BUILD YOUR OWN HOT DOGS

American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive W, Converse, TX 78109

May 1, 2024 5:30 pm – 7 pm

2 Hot Dogs Chips Homemade Brownie \$10.00

There will be a toppings bar with chili, nacho cheese, shredded cheese, onions, jalapenos, mayo, mustard and ketchup.

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR VETERAN'S PROGRAMS.





TACOS AND MARGARITAS

American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive W, Converse, TX 78109

May 3, 2024 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

2 Tacos with fixings bar, Rice, Beans and Dessert \$10.00 (choice between soft shell and hard shell)

FROZEN MARGARITAS - \$3.00

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR VETERAN'S PROGRAMS.







Tuesday Morning Coffee and Doughnuts Plus



Tuesday Mornings
Time: 9-11AM

Breakfast Taco Tuesday May l4th

Open to the public.

Come join for complimentary coffee, doughnuts, plus other goodies. Good fellowship and good conversation. Every Tuesday Morning, from 9-11 AM

> William M. Randolph Post 593 326 Legion Dr W Converse TX 78109 210-658-1111

Auxiliary Burger Grill

Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers,
FF and dessert for
\$10.00 per plate!

May 9

Time: 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Open to the public.



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William M. Randolph
Post 593
326 Legion Dr. W.
Converse, Texas 78109
Info: (210) 658-1111

Breakfast

Eggs cooked to order, Omelets, Pancakes, French Toast, Bacon, Sausage, Hash Browns, Toast, Fresh Fruit, Pastries, Coffee, Juice

All you can eat for the bargain price of \$10.00 per plate!

Date: May 11, 2024

Time: 8:00-11:00 AM

William M. Randolph

Post 593

326 Legion Dr W

Converse TX 78109



Information: 210-658-1111

Open to the public.

May 31, 2024 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Info: (210) 658-1111

Dine-in or take out.

Open to public.

Steak Night



12-oz ribeye cooked to order.

Salad, dinner rolls, and choice of vegetable.

All this for the incredibly low price of only

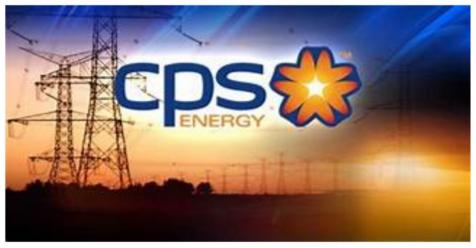
\$16 per plate!

Open jukebox for your musical pleasure.

Join us for a great meal, music, and fellowship.

William M. Randolph Post 593 326 Legion Dr. West Converse, Texas 78109





I FOUND OUT THAT CPS ENERGY IS DOING" IN HOME ENERGY AUDIT" FREE. THEY SPEND AN HOUR OR SO IN YOUR HOME CHECKING WINDOWS, DOORS, INSULATION AND MORE - PLUS THEY GIVE YOU FREE LIGHT BULBS AND POWER STRIPS. ALSO HERE IS ANOTHER GOOD ONE - THEY WILL SIGN YOU UP TO HAVE YOUR "AIR CONDITIONER TUNED UP FREE".

CALL THEM AT 210-353-2728 IF YOU WANT YOURS DONE - APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE IN MAY.

THINGS YOU FIND OUT WHEN OUT ON COP PATROL.



A Facebook page has been created for The Sons of The American Legion squadrons in the 20th District of Texas. The purpose is to allow SAL squadrons of the Mighty 20th to communicate with each other, announce special events, and receive important information and notifications from National, Detachment, Division, and District.

From your Facebook page search for **Sons of The American Legion 20th District of Texas**. Please like and share our page and be sure to follow us for continuous updates and information.

You may contact

George Alva, S.A.L. 20th District Commander

via email at

cdrsal20dist@gmail.com



SUPPORT THESE BUSINESS'S THAT SUPPORT OUR POST 593 EVENTS & PROGRAMS.



POST 593 MEMBER

POST 593 MEMBER





3136 PAT BOOKER, UC



9081 FM 78, CONVERSE



CUSTOM HANDMADE CUTTING BOARD BY HANNAH TAYLOR POST 593



707 S SEGUIN, CONVERSE



7535 FM 78



FORT WORTH, TX



