



William M. Randolph, Post 593

The American Legion

Of The United States of America
326 W. Legion Drive, Converse, TX 78109
(210) 658-1111

E-mail: Post593tx@yahoo.com

<http://www.Post593.org>

Post Home Manager: Terry Smith



Non-Profit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE PAID

Converse, Texas

Permit No. 28

Circulation: 1000

(printed and digital)

DECEMBER 2010



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Hours of Operation

Mon-Thur: 1pm-11:00pm

Friday: 1pm - 2am

Saturday: 12pm - 2am

Sunday: 12pm-Midnight

(Hours may vary due to business)

Post 593 Officers:

Commander: Dave Paris

1st Vice: Joe Falco

2nd Vice: Christine Reed

Adjutant: Gary Bartel

Finance Officer: John Orff

Chaplain: Dennis Ducharme

Judge Advocate: Joe Guastella

Historian: Acting: Ken Echerd

Service Officer: Shannon Lynde

Sergeant At Arms: Rick White

Hubmaster: Christy Miller

Members at Large:

Paul Crafton, Shad Defenbach,

Jay McCall, Peter Muth, Velma

Smith, Denny Taylor

Auxiliary Officers:

President: Candy Zavala

Vice President: Pati Bennett

Secretary: Denise Yanus

Treasurer: Irma Ducharme

Historian: Diane Echerd

Chaplain: Michelle Smith

Sgt At Arms: Brenda Weeks

Members at Large:

Darlene Cherry, Hanna Taylor,

Christy Miller

ALR Officers:

Director: Jim Bennett

Asst Director: Peter (Dan) Muth

Secretary: Sandy Vinson

Treasurer: Roxanne Muth

Road Captain: Terry Smith

Membership: Pati Bennett

Historian: Butch Rogerst

Sgt. At Arms: Tom Harm

Chaplain: Tim Vinson

Service Officer: Clayton Smith

Members at Large:

Ruben Aguirre, Paula Johnson, Jay

McCall

Sons of the American Legion:

Commander: Henry Creech

1st Vice: Brad Smith

2nd Vice: Billy Feehan

Adjutant/Finance: Henry Creech

Chaplain: Tim Vinson

Historian: Billy Feehan

Sgt at Arms: Ken Tidball

Place Mailing Label Here



Commander's Corner

Merry Christmas everyone! It simply can't be this time of year already! But, there it is on the calendar and Thanksgiving is a recent memory. The decorations in the hall and Post look great. My prayer is for everyone to have a safe and happy holiday season. Want to enjoy fellowship? Parties begin with the 20th District party being held at our Post on Saturday, December 7th at 7 p.m. (open to all members of all posts within the 20th) and continuing with the Children's party, Senior's party, our own Post party, and probably one or two more parties to boot. Check the calendar for dates and times. Hope to see you at one of these during this festive time of year!

Several folks asked about the need for the security cameras. It wasn't just the Labor Day picnic food leaving the kitchen—that was simply the last straw. We've had little items here and there disappear time and again. Less than a week after the cameras were installed, Post 300 experienced a break-in and robbery. Times are hard for some, but they don't need



Auxiliary News

Ho, Ho, Ho. Who wouldn't go? Ho, Ho, Ho. Who wouldn't go? Up on the housetop, Click, Click, Click. Down through the chimney with ...Oh, I'm sorry. I love that song AND I just love this time of year. I know that many of our own have been affected by the downturn in the economy. I hope all will remember that what makes this time of year special is not what is under the tree as much as who gathers around it.



This month the Auxiliary will again be busy sharing good cheer with some of the children and seniors of our community. We will be hosting the Children's Christmas Party December 4th from 1 - 3 pm. The Unit will also be hosting the Seniors Christmas Party December 12th from 1 - 3 pm. There will be a turkey meal, games and prizes for our guests as well as a visit from Santa. If you know of a senior that would like to attend, please let Hanna Taylor know so that she can plan accordingly.

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(Commander's Corner Continued from page 1)

to be for our employees. The security cameras will help ensure that, and we're working with our insurance agent to reduce our premium now that the cameras are installed and operating. And the rumor we're paying \$700 a month for the cameras is false! That was a one-time cost for purchasing and installing the system.

Have you signed up for the on-line newsletter? Simply send an email to alpost593newsletter@yahoo.com and provide your email address. You'll get a notice when the newsletter is available, with a link to take you there. We will hold all "printed" newsletters to 4 pages, but I suspect the electronic newsletter will expand to 5, 6, 7 or more pages in the near future. Don't miss out because an item wasn't in the 4-page issue but was in the electronic version.

Children & Youth (C&Y) Programs are vitally important to the Legion. Next month is the District Oratorical contest. The oratorical contest allows any 9th grader and above to prepare a 5-minute oratory on the U. S. Constitution and present the speech, without notes, to the judges. After all contestants finish this section, the judges draw one of four Constitutional Amendments as a topic for a 3-minute oratory. The quality of the speeches always amazes me. Boys and Girls State is limited to high school juniors but another C&Y program sponsored by the Legion and Auxiliary. If you know of a highly qualified junior, please encourage them to research Boys or Girl State and get ready to apply. January will also have a flag disposal ceremony conducted by a Boy Scout as an Eagle Scout project. Watch for more information online. These are just a few of the C&Y Programs we support under the Four Pillars of the American Legion.

Have a safe and merry holiday season everyone!

For God and Country,

—David Paris
Commander

The electronic Newsletter Mailing List is building nicely, and we'd like to add you to the list. The more folks we add, the less we have to send, saving printing and postage costs. To get your name on the electronic delivery list, please send an email to alpost593newsletter@yahoo.com. Thanks for your support of this effort to save some \$\$\$!

All members that have signed up to receive their newsletter electronically by December 15th will be put in a drawing for a \$50 gift card just in time for Christmas. Send your email address to alpost593newsletter@yahoo.com by December 15th to be eligible for the prize. The drawing will be held on December 18th during the dart tournament, need not be present to win.

(Auxiliary News Continued from page 1)



As I mentioned last month, Shannon, the Legion's Service Officer will be collecting dry goods for Christmas baskets going to those in need in our community. She also will be serving a spaghetti dinner on December 21st from which the profits will be used to purchase needed basket items. This is a great deal, folks. You can receive your dinner for the cost of \$5 or 4 canned goods. If you are able, help Shannon out. She does a great job on only a wish and a prayer.



I want to thank everyone that supported the Poppy Board last month. We had great participation right from the get-go. Congrats to the gift card winners. As part of our Poppy fundraising this year, we are doing various Poppy crafts. Keep an eye out at the Legion for the Poppy goodies. They will make great Christmas gifts. Remember, **all** monies raised during our Poppy campaign will go to benefit veterans.



Here we are in December and many of you still have not renewed your membership. I can't tell you how important this is. When you don't renew, you not only lose your continuous years of membership and the benefits earned, you also are taking away from our Veterans. Our membership Nationwide is used in lobbying the Government for legislation benefiting our active duty and Veterans. Our strength is not so much in the dollar as it is in our number. Send your renewal to the attention of your Vice-President, Pati Bennett at the address listed on the cover of this newsletter. She will get the paperwork completed and your card in the mail to you. If you know of someone that is eligible, the ALA membership application is available at the Post. It can also be printed from the Department website: ALATEXAS.ORG



Speaking of websites, the newsletter is now available via the internet. In receiving it so, you will help save greatly monies spent on postage. Those monies can be put to better use supporting the Legion Family's programs. If you would like to participate, send an email to alpost593newsletter@yahoo.com and the Newsletter Committee will handle it from there.



As my newsletter and the year come to an end, I would like to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas. No matter your form of service to our Community, State and Nation, thank you.



Oh, my! I almost forgot. Let's talk about pie. It's Christmas! So eat it cold, eat it hot, eat it with ice cream or Cool Whip. Just eat it.

HO! HO! HO!

—Candy D. Zavala
President, ALA Unit 593



Rider's Report

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving and if you were like me, enjoyed the benefit of great food and good company with friends and family.

We had a busy month in November that rolled through like a freight train. On the 11th a group from the Riders attended a **Veteran's Day Ceremony** at Our Lady of the Lake University. It was a very moving experience and we have been asked to remember to be there again next year.

The **Texas Honor Ride** on November 13th an outstanding success. I won't try to name all those folks that came out, helped refuel and then took up places on bridges for the Operation Overpass project. This single event was talked about by the over 500 participants of the ride. It looks like we of Converse have once again raised the bar. I do want to thank Clayton Smith, Bill Papa, Paula Johnson, and Pati Bennett for their tireless efforts in coordinating all the parts of the event and making it a great success once again.

While the Honor Ride was occurring, I would be remiss if I did not give a big thanks to the members of the Riders, Legion, Auxiliary and SAL who put on the monthly breakfast and served up breakfast tacos for the folks who left early to heads out to Buc-ees. A big thanks goes to Crissy Reed and Hannah Taylor, Michelle Smith and Jim Evans for getting up at O-dark-30 and getting things set up.

For the month of December, we Riders Christmas Party on 18 December, beginning at 7 PM. The theme for this year's event is a 1940's USO style. Anyone who would like to dress up in the style of that period, please feel free to do so. It is not, of course required, but it's a whole hoop of fun.

I once again express my appreciation to all those of you who are getting involved in the activities going on during this busy holiday season. I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas, and the hopes and prayers of a Happy New Year.

—Jim Bennett
Director, Post 593 Riders

December General Membership Meal

Emilio and his fabulous team of helpers will be cooking dinner Wednesday night before the General Membership Meeting. He and his team ALWAYS prepare a great meal! This Wednesday we're in for a very special treat!

They're serving homemade tamales, rice and beans!!!

Emilio is making the tamales himself! All for only \$5!! Come out and have a terrific meal!!



Service Officer Notes

Once again I am asking everyone to give from the heart and help those in need for the holidays. I will be accepting any and all can goods and dry goods for the Christmas baskets. Along with any and all donations.

A Spaghetti Dinner and raffle well be held on Dec 21st. (yes Tuesday evening) to help raise funds for the baskets and to help our veteran's throughout the coming year. So come out and enjoy a dinner and buy some raffle tickets. The dinner will only cost you 4 canned goods or dry goods. If you can't bring these items for you meal, it will only cost you \$5.00.

If you know of a family in need please let me know as soon as possible so that I may include them in our giving. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one out there. Hope to see you on the 21st.

—Shannon Lynde
Service Officer



Valentines & Vegas Casino Night

Everyone is invited to a meeting for the Valentines & Vegas Casino Night on Wednesday, 8 Dec, at 7:30pm in the hall. Due to Christmas, there will only be one meeting this month, so please come out

and get involved.

We still need some more volunteers to pull this off, And of course we need raffle & auction items, so if you have something to donate let us know and we'll be glad to help you clean out your house for the holiday season!

Oh! Don't forget Christmas is right around the corner! These tickets make the PERFECT Christmas gift! ;)

Be sure to get your tickets now. We're expecting overwhelming interest in our first casino night. We're going to have a professional Elvis impersonator who will, among other things, perform a Renewal of Vows ceremony in honor of Valentines Day. And we're going to have a costume contest: the theme will be "Vegas & The Rat Pack Era." Don't miss out! Get your tickets now. For tickets, see:

- * Henry & Gina Creech
- * Randy & Brenda Weeks
- * Ken & Dianne Echerd
- * Dennis & Irma Ducharme
- * Shannon Lynde

We're also looking for sponsors for our gaming tables. Invite your friends to get involved. Come on out and make a difference!

—Dennis



**William M. Randolph, Post 593
Valentines & Vegas Casino Night Fundraiser**



**Saturday, February 12, 2011
6:30 – 11 p.m.**

\$50 Donation Includes:

- Gambling Money
- 2 Drink Tickets (beer/well)
- Finger Foods
- Raffle Ticket for Grand Prize: 42 in HD TV!!!

Casino Games Include:

- Craps
- Blackjack
- Roulette
- Texas Hold 'Em

Schedule of Events:

6:30: Doors Open
7:00: Renewal of Wedding Vows
7:30 – 10:30: Tables Open
10:30: Live Auction
Casino Winners Announced
Raffle Winners Announced
Grand Prize Raffle Winner Announced



Events All Evening Long:

- Costume Contest: Dress As The Rat Pack (1940s) or Vegas Attire
- Silent Auction
- Live Auction
- Valentines Renewal of Vows Ceremony
- Live Entertainment: Elvis!
- Prizes for Top Three Casino Winners
- Valentines Photo Opportunity
- Fun All Night Long!

Only 200 Tickets to be Sold!

- Get yours today!



To Benefit:

**The American Legion
William M. Randolph, Post 593
326 Legion Drive West
Converse, TX 78109
www.Post593.org / 210-658-1111**



Participate in Voices of Veterans Oral History Program

Hundreds of Texas veterans have already participated in the Voices of Veterans Oral History Program, sharing their vivid memories of the roles they played in past conflicts.

The Voices of Veterans Oral History Program seeks to record the stories of Texas veterans and archive the transcripts in the Office of Veterans Records for future researchers, historians, genealogists and the general public. Every veteran has a story to tell, and this program will ensure these stories of courage and service can inspire Texans for generations to come.


Any veteran interested in including his or her story in the Voices of Veterans Program should contact the VLB at 1-800-252-VETS (8387), or send an e-mail to vlbinfo@glo.state.tx.us <<mailto:vlbinfo@glo.state.tx.us>>

Oral interviews can be conducted in person at the VLB in Austin, or by telephone from anywhere in Texas. Interviews usually last from one to two hours. www.voicesofveterans.com <<http://www.voicesofveterans.com>>

WANT A VLB SPEAKER?

If you would like to feature a VLB speaker at your organization's next meeting, call toll-free 1-800-252-VETS (8387) or contact a VLB representative near you. To find a representative in your area, visit our website at www.texasveterans.com <<http://www.texasveterans.com>> and click on "General Information," then select "Outreach Marketing Offices."

CASI Chili Cook-Off weekend is coming up on the weekend of January 15th. That Saturday there will also be a rededication ceremony of the Virgil Friesenhahn Pavilion at 12PM. Please come out and show your support for both the Cook-Off and the rededication ceremony. For more information on the ceremony please contact John Orff.

	<h2>CASI National Scholarship Program</h2>
	<h3><i>Chili Appreciation Society International, Inc.</i></h3>
About Us	<p>CASI National Scholarship Program Applications close February 1, 2011</p>
Terlingua	
Scholarship Program	<p>CASI is proud to support something very special - a National Scholarship Program that is available for students pursuing post-high school education both in the areas of academic or trade/technical school. Student applications can be made through all of our local CASI Puds (Chapters).</p>
Members	<p>CASI bestows a college scholarship to the top graduating student from Terlingua High School, with some technical school scholarships also awarded. On September 9, 2000, at the annual meeting of the Great Peppers (Pod/Chapter Presidents) held in Denver, Colorado, the Great Peppers approved a motion to enhance our scholarship program to include students from across the United States and beyond. The CASI National Scholarship Program was immediately established to assist with this endeavor.</p>
Resource Center	<p>To benefit the CASI National Scholarship Program, there is a day of competition added to our Terlingua International Chili Championship (held the first Saturday in November each year). All of the money raised on Friday of that week benefits the CASI Scholarship Program.</p>
CASI Board	<p>As you know, CASI is a tax-exempt charitable 501(c)(3) corporation, and any contribution that you or your business would like to make to this fund is tax deductible. Currently the scholarships we are granting are in the amount of \$1,000.00 per year, for a maximum of four years. Academic scholarships are for a maximum of four years (\$4000). Trade/technical scholarships are for a maximum of two years (\$2000). As this fund grows we hope to someday be able to offer full scholarships to deserving students. As you can see CASI has big plans for this new program, and we hope that many of you will feel the same way and do what you can to make the CASI Scholarship Program a great success.</p>
Sponsors	<p>For the year of 2011 CASI anticipates granting a minimum of six scholarships. To apply for one of these scholarships you must first submit your application by due date. Visit our Resource Center for an application..</p>
Recipes	
Upcoming Cookoffs	
Home	

Did you know we can make some extra money recycling common household items? Well we can, and we do. Save up your used aluminum cans, batteries, copper, brass and newspapers. Contact John Orff for more information.

There have been questions recently about Membership Dues mailings from the American Legion National HQ. If you pay your dues at the Post, disregard those mailings. It takes a few weeks from the time you renew to get National updated. If you've paid, you're good to go.

This application is available to any high school senior student or a student currently enrolled in College. We will award 6 of them for 2011.

As Post 593 hosts a CASI Chili Cookoff, I thought you may want to pass this information on to the members of Post 593.

Ken Rodd

RECEIVED _____

____ academic
____ technical/trade

CASI



**CHILI APPRECIATION SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL, INC
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
APPLICATION**

NAME _____ HOME PHONE (____) _____

ADDRESS _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

PARENTS' NAMES _____

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES AND HONORS RECEIVED WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL (can be on a separate page)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/SERVICES YOU WHERE/ARE INVOLVED IN (can be on a separate page)

WHICH COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY/SCHOOL DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEND?

WHAT WILL BE YOUR MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY?

***attach one letter of reference testifying to your talents, leadership, and seriousness of purpose (limit 250 words)

***attach an essay written by you about yourself and your future goals (limit 250 words)

***attach an official transcript of junior and senior years (on one page)

***attach a copy of ACT or SAT score report (can be on page with transcript) (not needed for technical/trade school)

***upon completion of this application, have your counselor or school administrator verify the information by signing below

***you will want to get the application to the Great Pepper/Pod Representative of a pod by Jan. 15th so that the Great Pepper/Pod Representative can ascertain whether all items are present. That will allow time to gather information if some is needed before the Feb. 1st deadline. If you are uncertain as to whom the Great Pepper is, you can email the CASI Executive Director gsurians@suddenlink.net for that information.

counselor/administrator (print name)

(signature)

(school phone number)

Thank you for applying for a CASI Scholarship. All applications must be postmarked to the Program Administrator by Feb. 1, 2011. We will notify those who receive scholarships by April 2011. We will also notify the Great Pepper who submitted the application.

CASI POD State of Texas

Send completed application to:

GREAT PEPPER/ Ken Rodd
POD REPRESENTATIVE

Barbara Herrin
Scholarship Program Administrator
7291 FM 380
Paint Rock, Texas 76866

APPLICATION CHECKLIST FOR GREAT PEPPERS

- ____ 1. Application form is filled out completely
- ____ 2. Letter of reference is attached
- ____ 3. Essay is attached
- ____ 4. Official transcript is on one page and attached along with SAT/ACT scores if needed
- ____ 5. Send completed application form to Barbara Herrin, Program Administrator

American Legion Post 593



December 2010

Phone: 210-658-1111

General Membership
Meeting 1 Dec

Children's Christmas
Party 4 Dec 1-3PM

20th District
Christmas
Party 4 Dec 6PM

Rider Blue Santa
Toy Drive 4-5 Dec

Chicken Fried Steak
Dinner 10 Dec 6-8PM



Breakfast, 11 Dec
8-11AM

Spaghetti Dinner
And Raffle

Dec 21, 4 can/dry
goods or \$5.00

Shuffleboard
Challenge moved to
Friday Nights
7:30PM

NO STEAK NIGHT
IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 General Membership Meeting 7:30 pm	2 Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm	3 Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	4 Children's Christmas party 1-3 PM 20th District Christmas party 6PM
5 NFL Football starting at Noon.	6 Dart League 7 pm	7 Dart League 7 pm	8 New Building Committee Meeting 7:30PM	9 Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm	10 Chicken Fried Steak Dinner 6-8PM Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	11 Breakfast 8-11 am
12 Seniors Dinner NFL Football starting at Noon.	13 Dart League 7 pm	14 ALR Exec Mtg 7:30 Dart League 7 pm	15 Post Exec Mtg, 7:30 pm	16 Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm	17 Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	18 Rider's Christmas Party 7PM Dart Tournament 7:30 PM
19 NFL Football starting at Noon.	20 Dart League 7 pm	21 ALR Gen Mbr Mtg 7:30 pm Dart League 7 pm	22 Spaghetti Dinner and Raffle	23 Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm	24 Christmas Eve Friday at the Legion	25 Christmas Day 
26 NFL Football starting at Noon.	27 Dart League 7 pm	28 Dart League 7 pm	29 Dart League 7 pm	30 Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm	31 New Year's Eve 