



William M. Randolph, Post 593

# The American Legion



**Non-Profit Organization**  
**U. S. POSTAGE PAID**  
Converse, Texas  
Permit No. 28



**Of The United States of America**  
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Post Home Manager: Terry Smith



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**JUNE 2009**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### Hours of Operation

**Mon-Thur: 1pm-11:30pm**  
**Friday: 1pm - 1am**  
**Saturday: 12pm - 1am**  
**Sunday: 12pm-10:30pm**  
(Hours may vary due to business)

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#### **Post 593 Officers:**

Commander: Jack Leanhart  
1st Vice: John Orff  
2nd Vice: Darrell Goemmer  
Adjutant: Gary Bartel  
Finance Officer: Dave Paris  
Chaplain: Dennis Ducharme  
Judge Advocate: Joe Guastella  
Historian: Acting: Ken Echerd  
Service Officer: Shannon Lynde  
Sergeant At Arms: Abram Zavala

#### **Members at Large:**

Ruben Aguirre, Joe Falco, Jay McCall, Velma Smith, Rick Stigall, Denny Taylor

#### **Auxiliary Officers:**

President: Sarah Toten  
Vice President: Pat McLeod  
Secretary: Candy Zavala  
Treasurer: Irma Ducharme  
Historian: Julie Graykowski  
Chaplain: Isabel Siepker  
Sgt At Arms: Rose Lewis

#### **Members at Large:**

Ada Wear, Loretta Kusek, Melisia Perez

#### **ALR Officers:**

Director: Brown Zavala  
Asst Director: Rick Stigall  
Secretary: Carolyn Putalavage  
Treasurer: Kani Nichols  
Road Captain: Dennis South  
Membership: Debi Aguirre  
Historian: Candy Zavala  
Sgt. At Arms: Terry Smith  
Chaplain: Paula Johnson  
Service Officer: Bill Papa  
Members at Large:  
Ruben Aguirre, Bill Papa, Orlando Perez

#### **Sons of the American Legion:**

Commander: Tommy Allmon  
1st Vice: Brian Glenn  
2nd Vice: Brad Smith  
Treasurer: Kenneth Tidball  
Adjutant: Kenneth Tidball  
Chaplain: Matthew Lacey  
Historian: Billy Feehan  
Sgt at Arms: Henry Creech



### *Commander's Corner*

Hello everyone. I hope that all of you are enjoying this hot weather because there are many months of it ahead of us. It is about this time of year that I always proclaim that I should move to Montana to escape the heat. I say that every year; however, I am still here. There is just something about living here that makes me love it. A large part of it is the members of our post. Since becoming a member 11 years ago, I have never felt more like I was part of a family. Yes, sometimes we bicker or show our differing opinions. Guess what? That is exactly what families do. And, I am very happy to be a part of our American Legion Family!

How many of you had the chance to make it to the Converse City Park for the Jubilee? If you did not get down there, you missed a good time. I am impressed with the events that were continually going on. My hat is off to Dennis, Henry, Irma, Gina, Hanna and Denny as well as all of the volunteers that helped make this happen. I know how much time and effort went into the planning as well as the event itself. That shows dedication. The next time you see these people or anyone that worked a shift, thank them. They deserve your praise.

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### *Auxiliary News*

It is June, and time to elect new officers for the coming year of 2009/2010. Please make sure you have your 2009 membership card with you at the meeting on 03 June so you can vote.

As of the writing of this newsletter we only need 3 to reach our membership goal.

The Department Convention is the last weekend in June in McAllen, TX.

Installation of officers for the Post and Auxiliary officer's is on 11 July. Please check the newsletter calendar for other events.

This will be my last newsletter as Auxiliary President. It has been a very busy year and I could not have done it without the help of all the wonderful volunteers in our Auxiliary and the total Post family. Our Auxiliary members are very dedicated, loyal and supportive of all our programs.

Our next meeting is on 03 Jun 2009; hope to see you there.

—Sarah Toten

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By the time you read this we will have had our Memorial Day Picnic at the post. This event was spearheaded by the one and only Chrissy Reed. As usual, Chrissy went above and beyond and put a lot of time into it. Sometimes I wonder where she packs all that energy into such a little body. Thank You, Chrissy.

We held a Flag Disposal Ceremony at the Jubilee. If you didn't get a chance to witness this short ceremony we will be having another one on Flag Day, Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Our flag has been the Standard for our country since its adoption on June 14, 1777. I know that all of you hold this flag very dear to our hearts. The official means of disposing of worn flags was first presented at the National Convention of the American Legion in 1937. That ceremony has been used ever since then. Please, come out and pay homage to the flag of our country. The time will be announced later.

Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be the date of our elections of officers. The polls open at 9:00 am and go until just before the General Membership Meeting at 7:30 pm. Joe Guastella is still looking for volunteers to man the polling station. If you can help him out, if only for an hour or so, let him know soon. More importantly, come out and vote. Voting shows that you care about our post and the direction it is going. See you at the polls.

Until next month...

—Jack Leanhart



### 1st Vice News

We still have five more bar stools in need of a sponsor or sponsors. Sponsorship is \$150 per stool. Please see me if interested.

—John Orff



### Chaplain's Corner

Dennis Kiselyk had open heart surgery on May 8th and is home recuperating. He won't be able to drive for about six weeks and would love to have company come over and visit. Please call ahead and keep him in your prayers.

We will hold a Post Everlasting ceremony on Wednesday, July 1st during the July General Membership meeting to remember those who left us during the past year. This brief ceremony is a touching way to pay tribute to those who have been a part of the history of our post. Friends and family members are invited to attend. Invitations to family members will be sent out shortly.

For God and Country,

—Dennis

## Jubilee Recap



Jubilee 2009 is now in the history books. I would like to thank all who made it possible: all the people who planned and worked to make it happen at the dozens of meetings leading up to the Jubilee; all the people who worked independently selling ads for the program, asking for donations, researching prices, making signs, coordinating bands, scheduling the various demonstrations, ordering food, getting tents & BBQ grills, designing graphics, getting & hanging banners, making signs, selling hats & t-shirts, getting radio spots announcing the Jubilee, and finally coming out, setting up, working long, long hours, sweating, and then tearing down, transporting and putting away all the things that were needed. There was a tremendous amount of work that went into making this event such a success. It took dozens of volunteers hundreds of hours of hard work to pull it off.

I can't possibly name everyone who was responsible for such a success without running the risk of inadvertently forgetting someone, so I won't try. Right now the final numbers aren't in, but it looks like we made about \$8,000. This isn't a lot of money for the work that went into putting the Jubilee on, but we're building. We're getting better. We have the beginnings of something that one day could be huge. We have to start somewhere, and many of us think this event is worthwhile. The potential is awesome!

One of the suggestions that was made during the Jubilee was to change the name from "Legion Jubilee" to "Spring Jubilee" or "Converse Spring Jubilee." The thought behind this is the public may think the event is only open to legionnaires. It's kind of like if you heard about the "Knights of Columbus Fiesta." If you aren't a member of the Knights of Columbus, you probably wouldn't be interested in attending. This is one of the changes being looked at for next year. We'll be starting earlier this year planning for next. Please look for more information in the coming newsletters and get involved. Everyone is welcomed!

The Jubilee Thank You Dinner has been rescheduled to June 6th at 6:00 pm in the post. Emilio Serano will be cooking the dinner. He plans on cooking chicken mole' with rice and beans and a salad with dessert. Purple Sage, one of the bands that played for free during the Jubilee, will be the entertainment for the night. They're great!! The dinner and entertainment are free. Everyone who sponsored, donated something, worked or supported the Jubilee is invited! Come out and pat yourselves on the back!

Once again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you to each and everyone who sponsored, volunteered or supported the Jubilee!

—Dennis Ducharme

**Lost & Found: Found at the Jubilee: an MP3 player. Describe it and it's yours! Call Dennis at (210) 630-0655 to claim**

## A true story: "The Sack Lunches"

I put my carry-on in the luggage compartment and sat down in my assigned seat. It was going to be a long flight. 'I'm glad I have a good book to read and perhaps I will get a short nap,' I thought.

Just before take-off, a line of soldiers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats, totally surrounding me. I decided to start a conversation. 'Where are you headed?' I asked the soldier seated nearest to me.

'Petawawa. We'll be there for two weeks for special training, and then we're being deployed to Afghanistan

After flying for about an hour, an announcement was made that sack lunches were available for five dollars. It would be several hours before we reached the east, and I quickly decided a lunch would help pass the time..

As I reached for my wallet, I overheard soldier ask his buddy if he planned to buy lunch. 'No, that seems like a lot of money for just a sack lunch. Probably wouldn't be worth five bucks. I'll wait till we get to base '

His friend agreed.

I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty dollar bill. 'Take a lunch to all those soldiers.' She grabbed my arms and squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, she thanked me. 'My son was a soldier in Iraq ; it's almost like you are doing it for him.'

Picking up ten sacks, she headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked, 'Which do you like best - beef or chicken?'

'Chicken,' I replied, wondering why she asked. She turned and went to the front of plane, returning a minute later with a dinner plate from first class. 'This is yours with thanks.'

After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room. A man stopped me. 'I saw what you did. I want to be part of it. Here, take this.' He handed me twenty-five dollars.

Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Aircraft Pilot coming down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked, I hoped he was not looking for me, but noticed he was looking at the numbers only on my side of the plane. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand, and said, 'I want to shake your hand.'

Quickly unfastening my seatbelt I stood and took the Captain's hand. With a booming voice he said, 'I was a soldier and I was a military pilot. Once, someone bought me a lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.' I was embarrassed when applause was heard from all of the passengers.

Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A man who was seated about six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars in my palm.

When we landed I gathered my belongings and started to deplane. Waiting just inside the airplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word. Another twenty-five dollars!

Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to the base. I walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars. 'It will take you some time to reach the base. It will be about time for a sandwich. God Bless You.'

Ten young men left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow travelers. As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return. These soldiers were giving their all for our country. I could only give them a couple of meals.


It seemed so little...

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to his country for an amount of 'up to and including my life.'

That is Honor, and there are way too many people who no longer understand it.

# American Legion Post 593



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Dart League 7 pm	2 ALR Exec Mtg 7:30pm Dart League 7 pm Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm Riders Grill 6-8pm	3 <b>POST ELECTION DAY VOTING open from 0900-1930</b> General Membership Meeting 7:30 pm Building Fund Kitchen Open 5-7 PM	4 Dart League 7PM Riders Grill 6-9pm	5 Friday at the Legion	6 <b>Jubilee Thank You Dinner 6:00 PM</b> Saturday at the Legion
7	8 Dart League 7 pm	9 ALR Gen Mbr Mtg 7:30 Dart League 7 pm Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm Riders Grill 6-8pm	10 Post Exec Mtg, 7:30 pm	11 Dart League 7PM Riders Grill 6-8pm	12 Friday at the Legion	13 Monthly Breakfast, 8-11 am
14 Flag Day 	15 Dart League 7 pm	16 Dart League 7 pm Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm Riders Grill 6-8pm	17	18 Dart League 7PM Riders Grill 6-8pm	19 Friday at the Legion	20 Dart Tournament 7:30PM
21	22 Dart League 7 pm	23 Dart League 7 pm Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm Riders Grill 6-8pm	24 H&E Meeting, 7 pm	25 Dart League 7PM Riders Grill 6-8pm	26 Friday at the Legion	27 Saturday at the Legion
28	29 Dart League 7 pm	30 Dart League 7 pm Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm Riders Grill 6-8pm	<b>Get out and Vote on June 3rd. This is your post, you do have a voice. Do your part!</b>			

**JUNE 2009**

Phone: 210-688-1111

**Post Elections on 3 June.  
Voting booth open 0900  
until just before the  
General Membership  
meeting.**

Building Fund Kitchen open  
5-7PM on General  
Membership Meeting nights

June 3: Loretta Kusek's  
Famous Gumbo!!

Rider's Grill Tuesday's and  
Thursday's 6-8PM

**Notice:  
Post Exec Meeting  
is now 7:30 PM**

Jubilee Thank You Dinner  
6 June 6:00 PM

Breakfast, 13 June  
8-11AM

Steak Night 26 June  
6-8PM