



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



Hours of Operation

Mon-Thur: 1pm–11:00pm

Friday: 1pm - 1am

Saturday: 12pm - 1am

Sunday: 12pm-6pm

(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

Circulation: 1000

(printed and digital)

MAY 2011

ELECTRONIC EDITION



Commander's Corner

In a representative government, voting commonly implies election: a way for an electorate to select among candidates for office. In politics, voting is the method by which the electorate of a democracy appoints representatives in its government. Well, we are fast approaching decision time—Wednesday, June 1st is election day at the Post. While I encourage every member of the Legion families to execute their privilege to vote, I'm also encouraging each member of the Legion family to vote in any local election they are eligible to participate in. Veterans historically have a poor showing at elections. While on active duty, it might have been difficult to obtain an absentee ballot, or perhaps we didn't know the candidates or issues. We need to be heard at all levels. For our Post election, we've made the process easier with all-day voting. For the record, we were the first Post in the state to do so. For local elections, we have the opportunity to participate anytime during Early Elections. The Legion is non-partisan, but don't confuse that with not exercising your right to vote or to get involved in local politics.

As of this writing, we have five young men selected to represent the Post at Boys State. This program is



Auxiliary News

Happy May, everyone. I am confused. Did we skip spring completely? I think March stole April's showers so now we have no flowers. I am glad though May is here.

The reason is two-fold. Not only is May the month of remembrance of those that have given of themselves in service; it is also a month without an "R" in it, and that means we can swim!! Well, at least that is what my grandpa when I was a child.

What is also important about May is that it is just one month away from our Unit's election of officers for 2011-2012. If you are interested in an office or know of someone that is, there is still time to get your name on the ballot by being nominated from the floor the night of the election. If you are "on the fence" as to whether or not to run, don't be afraid of being thrown into the position without a life preserver. Your Unit's past officers will be more than happy to show you the ropes. Change is what helps our Unit learn and grow.

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(Commander's Corner Continued from page 1)

one of the finest in the nation for preparing those interested in politics with hands-on experience. If you haven't talked with any past attendees, go up to Jack Leanhart and ask about his experience. While he didn't attend in Texas, the concept and training is conducted similarly throughout all states. In early fall, we will ask these this year's group to come back and share their experiences with us—stay tuned.

The Post was represented at the 20th District convention last month and brought home some hard-earned dollars through our Activity Reports and History Yearbook. Gary Bartel, our Adjutant, worked hard on compiling the reports with the help of Paula Johnson for the ALR input. Ken Echerd, our Historian, worked equally hard on getting the Yearbook ready with Dennis Ducharme's help. It's always nice to represent the Post at these events, especially when it's for boasting what good things we do all year long. Gary will now be compiling the Consolidated Post Report to forward to Department and National. You can see last year's results on www.mylegion.org and pulling up our post. Ken will be adding events during the next two months before submitting the yearbook to Department, and hopefully to National, for competition. Thanks guys for all your hard work!

We'll be having a few fundraisers to finish out the non-smoking room. We still need window dressing and dedicated furniture. As these activities are announced, please help in any way you can.

The new building committee is also looking for fundraising ideas. This dedicated group has put on three Jubilees and the Valentines & Vegas event. If you have an idea, please get with one of the members so we can start preparation. It's never too early! Also, be sure to support the upcoming Sixth Annual Legacy Dinner—tickets are now on sale for this grand event and the date this year is July 29.

Until next month, don't forget to vote and see you at the Post!

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 \$\$\$!

(Auxiliary News Continued from page 1)

In the month of May there will be a couple of activities happening at the Post that you may want to note on your calendar. The Legion Riders will be hosting the ALR State Rally May 13-15. Though the Rally is for ALR from across the State, our Post family is also invited. All our Legion family will be participating in the weekend's event by either cooking dinner, breakfast, or by working different activities, to include a barbeque cook-off between the ALR groups.

If you are not interested in the State Rally, please keep in mind the Auxiliary's III Division's Convention. It will be held at Post 2 the same weekend as the State Rally. The III Division Auxiliary President is the 20th District's own Thelma Harris. It would be great to have ladies from the 20th District there to support Thelma's Convention.

On Sunday May 29th the Post will be holding its Memorial Day Celebration. There will be activities for the "old" and "young" at heart. There will be plenty of food, fun, food, games, food and camaraderie with your Legion family. Make sure to check out the remainder of the newsletter for more details.

Before closing I would like to remind our members that, if you have not renewed your 2011 membership, you are soon to lose your continuous years of service. Not only that, remember what your membership and dues provide for our veterans and their families. It is \$21 to renew and your time is short.

I also want to thank all of the Auxiliary members that stepped up and helped our Legion Family throughout the month of April, not only with breakfast and steak night, but the Converse 50th Anniversary Celebration, the Post's Golf Tournament and Post cleanup. I'm sure there are many other things that I have not mentioned. And to you ladies that whipped up that delicious Lasagna, spaghetti, anti pasta salad, cakes, and pies and worked the kitchen serving -- yes, I am talking about Michelle, Hanna, Sue Mills, Alice, Diane and Denise -- you ladies hit the ball out of the park. From what I have heard, it was a home run. Of course, to those that purchased tickets for the Lasagna Dinner, the Unit is MOST grateful for your support of the Girls State Program.

Don't forget to put on your calendar, Wednesday May 4th, 7:30 p.m., our Unit membership meeting. We are now holding it in the newly completed no-smoking room. I look forward to seeing you then.

Be Safe and Enjoy your Memorial Day!

—Candy D. Zavala
President, ALA Unit 593



Rider's Report

Well so much for spring, the heat is upon us for the summer is South Texas. The Riders will be as hot as the weather with all that is planned for May.

First a loud "Thank You", to all of those that participated in the "To Hell and Back" ride. TJ Haynes and Brad Pierce helped to put on a wonderful ride that incorporated the Audie Murphy VA Hospital ride with Fiesta for the first time. It was a beautiful day to ride and what a wonderful cause.

Clean up continues around our post to prepare for the American Legion Riders Texas State Rally this month. The rally will be on 13-15 May at our Post. The weekend is open to all American Legion members that want to come out and celebrate with us. Keep in mind with a lot of visitors parking will be adjusted, but just follow the signs and keep a smile on your face as we enjoy the weekend.

With the warming of the weather it will be a great month to stop by our Post on Thursday nights for Rider Grill Night. If you can, sign up to assist in the kitchen, or just stop by to enjoy the food, beverages, and biker fun.

The Month of April closed with the closing of the nomination books for the upcoming elections in June. Nominations can be made from the floor during the May General Membership meeting. This is your group, so become involved and enjoy the fruits of your labors.

While on the topic of the upcoming elections, to be an American Legion Rider you must be a member of the American Legion, Auxiliary, or SAL. We all need to be cognizant of the fact that the first words in our title are "American Legion". With this in mind let us all support the core of our Post. Be active in the elections and meetings of the groups that provide the basis for existence.

—Danny "Peter" Muth
Assistant Director, Post 593 Riders

General Membership meal prior to the meeting on May 4 will be Sloppy Joe's, Chips and Macaroni Salad prepared by Rick and Candy White and crew. C'mon out from 5-7PM.

The SAL will be holding a garage sale Saturday June 11th. Anyone wishing to donate items please contact John Orff at 632-2623. All items not sold will be donated to Goodwill. The Legion is also in need of a trailer for aluminum cans. If anyone has a trailer or a chassis we can build on to donate or sell cheap please contact John Orff.

9-11 Anniversary Remembrance



Folks, 2011 marks the 10th Anniversary of the horrible September 11 2001 tragedy. Rudy Guastella is heading up a committee to honor those who gave all on that fateful day. They are in early planning stages and can use your help. Please join Rudy and his group on May 11th at 7:30pm at the Post if you're interested in lending a hand during this service. For more information, contact Rudy at 516-668-6387. Thank you for your continued support of our Legion events and programs.

2nd Vice Notes

I want to thank everyone that came out and supported the Converse 50th anniversary celebration. It was hot, but a lot of fun, good music and good food. I hope it was successful for the city too.

Also, a huge thank you to everyone that helped make the Golf Tournament a great success! We had 19 teams, with prizes for the top 6 places, the longest drive, closest to the pin and putting contest. Terry Smith did fantastic job on the meat, Candy Zavala helped us with door prizes. There were many people that helped Calvin and Gonzo to make it all come together, Denny & Hanna Taylor, Peter Muth, Greg Trudo, & Michelle Smith all did an outstanding job the day of the tournament.

Please keep in mind our Legacy Scholarship Fund "Taste of Freedom Dinner" is coming up in July. Although our riders have taken this on for several years, it is a Legion Sponsored event, so even if you are not a rider, please step up and help. We have plenty to do and a short time to get it done.

—Chrissy Reed
2nd Vice Commander

We would like to fill the picture boards near the pool table with photos our Military family members and ourselves. Please bring in anything you like to share with the Post Membership.



For information contact: Clayton Smith 210-241-6777
Terry (Hawgr) Smith 210-658-1111
Email: alr593info@gmail.com

For Immediate Release: March 29, 2011

TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS TO HOLD BARBEQUE COOK-OFF AT STATE RALLY

**Grand Haven, Michigan Post 28 Riders to travel 1,500 miles to compete in Converse, Texas
May 13-15**

When the Riders chapter at post 593 in Converse, Texas was selected to host the annual state rally, they wanted it to salute the spirit of service that prevails in The American Legion Family. They were in search of a family friendly, fun competition to add to the rally when, by chance, riders from Converse met a group from Michigan. As is usual for American Legion Riders, their conversation drifted to serving veterans and fundraising. When one of the Michigan riders mentioned they hold successful barbeque meals at their post, the Texas riders offered to teach them how to cook real barbeque. The ensuing spirited dialog ended in laughter and a plan.

They would establish a friendly riders cooking competition, with 100% of the proceeds going to American Legion Programs. Converse agreed to host the event as part of the Texas State Rally on May 13-15, 2011. Competition is open to all American Legion Riders.

According to Jack Van Weelden, Chief Cook and instigator for the Post 28 riders, "We are bringing our own cooker and wood, because we want to help our fellow riders in Texas learn how to barbeque. Who knows how much money they would raise for American Legion Programs if their food was actually eatable? It's going to be a blast.

Terry (Hawgr) Smith, Chief Cook and instigator for the Post 593 riders responded with, "What can I say. They are from up north and this is Texas. If they are trainable, I think we can help them some. We won't send them home hungry."

According to Clayton Smith, Chairman of the ALR State Rally, there is no entry fee. "But be careful, he adds, "there are a few rules: Number one: This is a family event so laughter is required. Number two: Respect for ribs, chicken and brisket is required at all times. Number three: Courage to face a mystery meat and judges with a smile is required. Number four: You must agree the real winner will be the programs of The American Legion.

End



**2011 ALR STATE RALLY 13-15 MAY 2011
CONVERSE TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION POST 593**



ACCOMMODATIONS/CAMPING
RESTAURANTS, BIKE SHOPS CLOSE BY
FREE ON-SITE CAMPING
(SELF-CONTAINED) AND TENTS)

Check out the website:
www.alr593.net
for information on lodging

Stupid Human Tricks
and Bike Events

Food Available
Friday night Chicken Fried Steak
Sat Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Sun Breakfast Tacos



When: MAY 13-15, 2011
Where: American Legion Post 593
126 W. Legion Drive
Converse, Texas 78109
(210) 658-1111

Pre-Registration: \$25.00
Registration: \$30.00
EVENT PATCH INCLUDED

For More Information Contact
CLAYTON SMITH 210-241-6777
TERRY SMITH (HAWGR) 210-658-1111
EMAIL: alr593info@gmail.com

INAUGURAL NATIONAL TEXAS
NORTH vs SOUTH BBQ COOKOFF

Sat Fun Run with Prizes
Blessing of the Bikes
Live Music
Bike Show
Vendors
Bike Wash and Photos



ALR Texas State Rally Pre Registration Form

When: May 13 – 15, 2011

Where – American Legion Post 593, Converse, TX

Cost – \$25.00 Pre Registration postmarked by April 22nd,
After April 22nd – \$30.00
Children under 12 free admission

Who – American Legion Riders members and families
A 2011 State Rally Patch, Entertainment, Saturday evening meal, and 1 drink
ticket are included with admission.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone # _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone # _____
Sponsoring ALR Post # _____
Registration: ALR Member Amount _____
Family Member Amount _____
Total Amount _____

Send registration form with Cash or Check to:
**American Legion Riders State Rally
326 West Legion Dr
Converse, TX 78109**

Note: All Returned checks will be subject to a \$30.00 NSF Fee. All Proceeds from 2011 ALR Texas State Rally
will be donated to all Programs sponsored/funded by the American Legion Riders.

Shuffle Board News



As some have noticed, the weekly Friday Shuffle Board tournaments have really taken off. More and more folks show up to play, including many first timers. We've even generated some new Members during those events.

It's all thanks to John Orff and his crew of folks who sponsor and run the event. I'd also like to say thanks to Jeff Martin who took time out of his work schedule to bring in his laser level and get the table set up into professional working order.

So if you haven't been to an event, please make plans to drop by on a Friday evening and get in on the fun of the blind draw elimination tournament. I'll bet if you go to one you'll come back for more.

Skunk of the month! Not exactly a skunk but a good story:

Roll up the sleeves and shuffle it out!!

It was a grueling match one sunny Monday evening. Not a skunk...not this time. However, in the annals of Post 593 shuffleboard, it was just another day at the table.

First, Henry challenged Dennis to a game. With some hesitation, Dennis agreed....and lost. Not surprising....but disappointing all the same.

Then Dennis apprehensively challenged Henry to a rematch. Irma....do you have any quarters, please? This time the game went longer....way longer. Somewhere near the middle of the game, Brad decided to challenge the winner. I'm sure he fully expected to play Henry. And with a strange turn of events, Dennis barely squeaked out the win!



Jack and Brad decided they wanted free beer. Not a bad thought. They saw two easy marks! Of course they could win. Jack loudly asked "What are we playing for?" Dennis must have been in a giving mood, because when Henry said beers, he agreed. Game one. Pretty fast. Dennis and Henry ordered the obligatory beverages. Game two. Sweat dripping off of each forehead. Determination in both sets of eyes. Trepidation in the fingertips. The game this time was not going so easily as the last. Strict, intense concentration! This game was harder to win, but in the end.... It didn't matter.

Brad and Jack got another free beer. Darn the luck! Good luck next time guys...we're going to wax the board!!!!

Send your shuffle board skunk stories to jfalco@satx.rr.com. This will be fun!

American Legion Post 593



May 2011
Phone: 210-658-1111

General Membership Meeting 4 May 7:30 PM

Meal of sloppy joe's, chips and macaroni salad will be provided by Rick and Candy White and crew

9-11 Memorial Meeting 11 May 7:30PM

Chicken Fried Steak Dinner 13 May 6-8PM

Breakfast, 14 May 8-11AM

ALR State Rally 13-15 May

Dart Tourney 21 May 7:30

Steak Night 27 May 6-8PM

Memorial Day Picnic 29 May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Dart League 7 pm	ALR Exec Mtg 7:30 Dart League 7 pm	General Membership Meeting 7:30 pm	Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm	Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Dart League 7 pm	ALR Gen Mbr Mtg 7:30 pm Dart League 7 pm	9-11 Memorial Meeting 7:30PM	Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm	Chicken Fried Steak Dinner 6-8PM ALR State Rally Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	Breakfast 8-11 am ALR State Rally
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
ALR State Rally	Dart League 7 pm	Dart League 7 pm	Post Exec Mtg, 7:30 pm	Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm	Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	Dart Tournament 7:30 PM
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Dart League 7 pm	Dart League 7 pm		Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm	Steak Night 6-8PM Entertainment to Follow Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	
29	30	31	May 1			
Memorial Day Picnic	Memorial Day	Dart League 7 pm	General Membership Meeting 7:30 pm Post Election Day	Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm		Join us on Facebook. Look up Post 593 TX to join