

Of The United States of America

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

The American Legion

e-mail: Post593tx@yahoo.com

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

May, 2006

Post 593 Officers Commander: Ted Toten 1st Vice: Dave Paris 2nd Vice: Jane Clark Adjutant: Gary Bartel Finance Officer: Jan Lineback Chaplein: Add Fester Chaplain: Andy Foster Judge Advocate: Dennis Ducharme Historian: Carol Foster Service Officer: Ross Oakes Sergeant At Arms; Rick White Members at Large; Jack Leanhart, Debbie Aguirre Denny Taylor, John Orff

Auxiliary Officers
President: Hilda Bray
Vice President: Sarah Toten
Secretary: Carolyn Putalavage
Treasurer: Joleen Waldrop
Historian: Sue Mills
Chaplain: Babel Siepker
Sgt At Arms: Candi White
Mbr At Large: Georgia Horner
Mbr At Large: Doris Bair
Mbr At Large: Pat McLood

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

Visit our website at http://www.post593.org

AL Riders Officers

ALL RIGHES OffICES
Director: Ruben Aguirre
Aset Director: Abran (Brown) Zavala
Secretary: Wendy Lee
Rum Coord: Larry Metcalf
Membership: Debi Aguirre
Historian: Candy Zavala
Sgt. At Arms: Terry Smith
Chaplain: Debi Aguirre
Webmaster: Dennis Ducharme

SAL Sq. Officers Commander: Kenny Tidball 1st Vice: Joe Guastella 2nd Vice: Jack Leanhart Historian: Billy Feehan Sgt at Arms: Tim Wagner

Circulation: 1000

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Commander's View

Ted Toten



Election time is just around the corner. The screening book of nominees will be closed at the end of the day, 30 April. Those of you placed in nomination will be screened by one of the screening committee to make sure you understand the duties and responsibilities of the position. It goes without saying you must have a 2006 membership card. The nominee may accept or decline the nomination.

The group of candidates from the screening book will be presented at the General Membership Meeting being held on 03 May at 7:30 PM. At this meeting nominations from the floor may be made by a current Post 593 member. The nominee must be a current Post 593 member. This closes out our procedural requirements for nominations at the May meeting.

It's time to get into full swing and support our flag program. Let's press on with renewals, and as a special challenge, I would like to see each of us sign up one new member. The results would be great. The flag program is awesome and deserves our fullest support.

Our membership total is now at 754 versus our goal of 891 or 84.6%. (Continued on page 2)

Auxiliary News



Our yard sale was a big success. Thanks to Sue Mills who chaired the event and to all who worked, including several Legionnaires. We had a lot of really nice items donated by our members. Thanks to you all! Thirty two children and their parents attended the Easter Party. Again, thanks to Sue and her helpers who made it such a fun day. J.J. Horner did a good job as the Easter Bunny. We are very pleased to send five girls to Girls State this year. The Interview Committee had a difficult time selecting candidates as they were all very well qualified. Our Girls State reception will be held May 7th at 2:00PM. At our May meeting the Nomination Committee will give their report regarding officer candidates for the coming year. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the June 7th meeting.

The 3rd Division Convention will be held May 20th and 21st at the Olympia Hills Golf & Conference Center. Delegates to the convention will be elected at the May meeting. Memorial Day ceremonies will be held at the Ft. Sam Cemetery on Monday, May 29th usually at 9:00AM. (Continued on page 2)

Commander's View (Continued)

There are some members who think they are paid up to date but may not be. Please check your membership card to make sure it is dated 2006. If you haven't renewed please do so at your earliest convenience. We certainly appreciate enrolling new members but our difficulty seems to be with renewals.

The 3rd Division American Legion and Auxiliary convention is to be held 19 May 21 May 2006 in Universal City at the Olympia Hills Golf and Conference Center, 12900 Mount Olympus. The welcome reception is scheduled for 19 May from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Missing Man Post 667, Universal City with registration table open. Advance registration forms are available with a fee of \$25.00, cut off date is 05 May 2006, and \$30.00 after 05 May 2006. On 20 May 2006 a dinner will be held at 7:00 PM. The tentative schedule of events will be posted on our bulletin board. If you are interested contact myself, Dave Paris or Gary Bartel.

Let's not forget to honor all Veteran's and active duty service members on May 20, Armed Forces Day and May 29, Memorial Day observance. Their service and sacrifices are truly worthy of praise. In addition let's not forget our hopes and prayers for the POW/MIA of our armed forces.

Don't forget steak night on May 26th. We sold out last month so be there early so you won't miss out. Remember Mother's day on 14 May 2006.

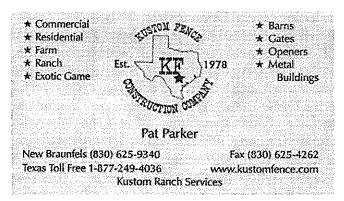
PRIDE: Personal Responsibility In Doing Everything See ya at the Post! For God and Country,

Ted

Auxiliary News (Continued)

Members: If your membership card is dated 2005, it has expired! Please renew for 2006 as soon as possible. In July we will begin issuing cards for 2007. Our next meeting is June 7th at 7:30PM

Loyally, Hilda



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Ross

Post 593 Newsletter Editor (databox5@yahoo.com)

FLAG PROGRAM UPDATE:

By David Paris, 1st Vice Commander



Last month's topic was the Flag Program. I'd like to start a correctionVirgil's dad did not construct the carportit was built by Virgil and dedicated to his dad as a memorial. We have received quite a few renewals from subscribers of the Flag programif you haven't sent yours in yet or dropped it off at the Post, please do so before May 15th. The next holiday is Memorial Day and we need to update the routes before then. Again, it's only \$25 for six holidays during the year and a great way to show your patriotism! Perhaps you might even get a neighbor or two to consider adding the flags on your street. Last Month's Trivia Question: What color carpet was originally

Last Month's Trivia Question: What color carpet was originally in the hall? Answer: Red. The building was previously a church and the area where the stage is now was the alter area. After we bought the building, Tom Neely came in one day and took the altar down and, much to his pleasure, that same red carpet was under the altar so it did not leave a gaping space in the floor.

Next Month's Trivia Question: Before you can vote in the June elections, what item must you show?



Rider News

by Ruben Aguirre, Director Post 593 American Legion Riders



Riders, I wish to thank you for your excellent support of our Post and their projects, especially with our assigned breakfast and steak nights because you did a wonderful job. Many showed up and all had fun participating. What a great crew. Our Riders continue to support our fallen soldiers via the Patriot Guard and have been attending many missions (funerals). We have been using our Legion flag program flags to honor this fallen soldiers and it makes a world of difference to fly so many American Flags to show these families our support. Special thanks to Pat Parker for his efforts in supporting this wonderful cause. What great show of respect to the families that lost a loved one and need us. We as Americans must never forget the sacrifices that these families are enduring and must show them that we care, Thank you Legion Riders. Just a reminder, our Riders elections are coming up and everyone should consider the direction we want our Riders group to pursue. All of our current officers are stepping down and a new and wonderful group of officers will step up to do job. Please consider each position and make your nominations in our book at the post. Remember, our general membership meeting is the second Tuesday of each month (for May will be May 9th) our executive meeting is the Thursday prior to the general membership (May 4th). Ride safe, show your colors and continue to do wonderful things for our community, Post, veterans and each other. God bless. Ruben

Food, Food Food!!

Membership Appreciation will be special this month, with some great treats provided by Jane Clark, 2nd Vice Commander

Fri. May 5th - Music at 8PM

Legion Leader Lashes Out against Imminent VA Decision



INDIANAPOLIS, April 20, 2006 - Veterans in 18 communities where Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities face closure or reductions have been left out of the loop since early last fall when VA suspended meetings to involve veterans in the decision-making process.

VA Secretary James Nicholson told the "Federal Times" newspaper this week that he is nearly ready to reveal his decision on VA's massive national CARES program - Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services. "Local veterans and VA employees were still working out details through Local Advisory Panels when the plug was pulled," said Thomas L. Bock, National Commander o The American Legion.

"Everything went into limbo for half a year and now suddenly the Secretary says he is prepared to make a unilateral decision that affects the lives of millions of America's veterans" added Bock. "Instead, he needs to resume the talks and make a decision based on a VA demand picture that has changed greatly in the past two years."

Facilities listed as "under review" for closure, reduction or in some cases expansion are located in Montgomery, AL; Livermore, CA; West Los Angeles, CA; Louisville, KY; Lexington, KY; Perry Point, MD; Boston, MA; Gulfport, MS; Poplar Bluff, MO.; New York, NY; Canandaigua, NY; Montrose/Castle Point, NY; St. Albans, NY; Muskogee, OK; White City, OR; Big Spring, TX; Waco, TX; and Walla Walla, WA. Facilities in Pittsburgh and Chicago are already en route to closure under CARES.

CARES also called for the building of more than 150 new community-based outpatient clinics across the nation, and new VA Medical Centers in Las Vegas, Denver and Orlando, FL. Funding for CARES construction - estimated at approximately \$6 billion when plans were announced in May 2004- has failed to be provided in the Federal budget.

"CARES funding has been in decline almost from the day it was announced," Bock said. Now you can't find it listed in the budget. It's obvious Washington cares less about the 'enhanced services' piece of the CARES acronym than it does the 'realignment' piece of it. Enhanced services take fiscal commitment. Realignment cuts costs.

The American Legion has supported CARES on three conditions. One, that veterans are included in the decision making. Two, that funding be provided, and three, that the end result is better healthcare for veterans.





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Veterans Hiring Preference Expanded



More servicemembers are now eligible for veterans' preference when applying for government civilian jobs. Under the new Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2006, the first provision gives preference to those who have served on active duty for a period of more than 180 consecutive days, any part of which occurred during the period beginning Sept. 11, 2001, and ending at the close of Operation Iraqi Freedom, regardless of location, provided they meet other eligibility conditions.

The second provision clarifies veterans' preference eligibility for individuals "who are discharged or released from activeduty service", provided that they, too, meet other eligibility requirements.

Annual Poker Tournament



Over 200 Players with a Grand Prize of over \$14,000 and a trip to play in Vegas!!

Sat. May 20th - 9 -3 PM at Am. Legion Post 593



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) -			27	Dart Tournament 7:30 PM	Tournament Horse Racing The Preakness 5:20PM	3rd Division 20 Convention 20 Bar Poker Annual		Monthly Breakfast 8 - 11 AM	13	Horse Racing Kentucky Derby 5:20PM	Fundraiser & Comedy Show Post 667 - 7:30PM	20th District 6 Convention	Sat
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