



Love Field Gazette

A publication for the members of American Legion Love Field Post 453

September 2015

From the Commander



As I enter my 2nd quarter as your commander, I want to thank everyone for the support and encouragement provided me. I would also remind everyone that 2016 membership renewals are

available now.


Renew your Legion membership before Dec. 31, 2015, and you'll save the post from paying an extra \$5 dues increase.

The annual dues for each Legion post are listed in what is known as the Blue Book. This book is updated and printed each July. The Blue Book lists our dues as \$35 per year. Our dues cannot be increased until the updated Blue Book is printed in July 2016, and only if approved by post membership. As a result, for each member who pays his or her 2016 dues between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2016, we are forced to take the \$5 dues increase from the portion allotted to the post.

What does this mean? Today, if a member pays her \$35 dues for 2016 prior to Dec. 31, 2015, we keep \$9 of the dues payment and forward the remaining \$26 to Department. Should that member pay her \$35 dues 2016 between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2016, we must now forward \$31 to Department. The extra \$5 must come from the post's allotted \$9.

In simple language, each member that renews his or her 2016 membership between January 1 and June 30, 2016 will cost the post \$5. Please help your post by renewing your 2016 Legion dues before Dec. 31, 2016.

**POW/MIA
Recognition
Day 2015
Sept 18, 2015**



Beginning January 1, it appears that 2016 Legion dues will be raised \$5. In their press release, the National Executive Committee (NEC) states, "With more than 3 million veterans of the global war on terrorism restarting civilian lives, or soon to do so, and looking to The American Legion for help, the NEC passed a resolution at the 2015 Spring Meetings in Indianapolis to recommend a \$5 per-capita annual increase in national membership dues. It amounts to about 1.4 cents a day." See more at: www.legion.org/membership/229459/dues-increase-recommended-keep-programs-strong

As you know, our post needs regular maintenance in order to protect our investment. We have recently repaired our water lines, upgraded our satellite TV network, repaired one of the rooftop AC units, steam-cleaned the kitchen vent hood, replaced our aging rear door, repaired our dishwasher, rewired the compressor for the walk-in cooler, and installed new ceiling fans in the bar area. A big thank you to **Den- nis Brisbon, Gary Callahan**, and the other post family members who helped tackle the seemingly endless list of needed repairs.

With the hot summer days behind us, I want to suggest that the post consider installing a high-pressure misting fan system on our patio in time for next summer's high temperatures. In spite of the

100+ temps, our mem- bers who smoke have honored the no smok- ing policy with very few complaints. Some of you may remember the problems we had with the low-pressure misting system.

Legion

- Commander** Bobby Vandebush
- 1st Vice** Mario Gutierrez
- 2nd Vice** Francis "Stoney" Stone
- Adjutant** Ed Kownslar
- Service Officer** Bob Kaminski
- Finance Officer** Jim Miner
- Sgt. at Arms** Bill Freauff
- Chaplain** Ed Kownslar
- Historian** Phyllis Moynihan
- Judge Adv.** Sam Underwood
- House Committee Chairman** Dennis Brisbon
- Executive Committee** Bob Elkins, Del Martin, Rollin MacDuffie, Frank Roberson

S.A.L.

- Commander** Michael Paul Melgoza
- 1st Vice** Tom Arista
- Finance Ofcr.** Dennis Brisbon
- Sgt. at Arms** Mark Rodrigues
- Adjutant**
- Chaplain** Troy Hartog
- Judge Adv.**
- Historian** Ryan Miller
- Advisor** Bill Freauff

Auxiliary

- President** Janice Velasco
- 1st Vice** Sylvia Shipman
- 2nd Vice** Sherry Westbrook
- Treasurer** Sharon Shumate
- Secretary** Barb Black
- Chaplain** Peggy Roberson
- Historian** Janey Barrett
- Sgt. at Arms** Patricia Moore
- Executive Committee** Shirley Gray, Cindy Freauff, Sandy Miller, Amy Potter

Legion Riders

- Director** Bobby Vandebush
- Asst. Director** Jim Teafailer
- Secretary** Robin McCarrroll
- Treasurer** Brenda DeLeon
- Sgt. at Arms** Brother To
- Road Captain** Hermanator
- Advisor** Bob Cobey



453 LABOR DAY COOKOUT!

Monday 9/7 around 1 p.m.

Tom & Bob will be grillin' on the patio - bring a dish to share, play washers, enjoy the holiday!

Continued on the next page

Love Field Gazette



From the Commander (continued)

High-pressure misting systems are in use at a number of local pubs and restaurants with great success. A high-pressure system designed for our patio would run about \$1,850, given this year's prices. I'm confident that we could find support from the other post families in helping to raise the required funds.

I would remind members of the need to lock the kitchen fridge, walk-in cooler, freezer, and pantry when not in use. It's a pain to unlock/lock every time but a number of food items have disappeared. Every item in the post was bought and paid for by its members. Losses to theft reduce the funds available to support our veterans, our youth programs, and our community. Be aware of suspicious activities near food or alcohol storage areas during off-hours. We are a family and

any family member experiencing temporary financial hardship may receive assistance from the post if needed.

Kitchen volunteers should be aware that our dull knives have been sharpened thanks to the efforts of **Larry Cox**. Be extra careful when reaching into the knife drawer or you'll cut yourself. Thanks also to Dennis Brisbon for cleaning the ice machine and in helping to rewire the walk-in cooler.

Our memorial service on August 29 for **Tom Campbell** was greatly appreciated by Tom's family. Once again, Legion Chaplain **Ed Kownslar** conducted a memorable service. Several Legionnaires shared their memories of Tom and of his not-so-subtle humor. Following the memorial service, a bit of Tom's ashes were added to the front cactus garden.

Please help support the Legion Riders with their **3rd Annual Homeless Veterans Benefit Run** on Sept. 12. The poker run is open to both bike and cars. Following the poker run, Brother To will be serving his famous barbecue for a donation of \$10. The Riders are also asking for donations of baked goods for the cake walk. Fliers are available in the canteen with complete details.

September is suicide prevention month. Remember, one small act can make a difference in the life of a veteran or service member in crisis. We have the resources - let's put them to use.

Bobby Vandenburg

From the Auxiliary



The Auxiliary has been very busy lately, with 2 major fundraisers in July. The Joint Garage Sale fundraiser brought in \$1,722 that is being used for repairs to the building. The Sock Hop was also very well attended and monies raised will be used to support Veterans and their families. We were



very proud to play an active part in both of these important events last month.

SAVE THE DATE – Oct. 3, 2015, is LUAU and you do not want to miss this one where we will be bringing back some of the traditional events and mixing it up with some new activities. The Texas Luau Feast will consist of Brisket, Chicken, Sausage and Pork. The fun and games will last all day and a special musical performance by "Catfish" will wind things up. We are asking for cash donations to off-set the cost of the food and side dishes will also be needed. Grab your hula skirts and party with us at LUAU 2015.

Membership – 2016 Dues are now being accepted. The Early Bird rate for renewals is \$27 until 11/11/2015. After that date the renewal rate will be the full \$30. New memberships are \$32 and Junior members are still only \$7.

In closing – My personal thank you goes out to all of you that work so hard to make our Auxiliary the success that it is. You should all be very proud of the great work that you do.

*Thanks,
Jan Velasco*

From the S.A.L.



Greetings:

I would like to start by saying how honored I am to be Commander of this Squadron. I know I have big shoes to fill and a great legacy to live up to. Next, I would like to thank all who made the Garage Sale fundraiser a huge success. An-



other big thanks to the SAL members who serve as officers with me. You guys do make me look good

With that, I wish to invite all SAL members to attend our monthly meetings, second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. We do a lot of good things here at the post and we can do more with you.

Don't forget Luau is just around the corner. So get ready for a fun-filled day. Any thoughts or concerts—just tap me on the shoulder. Thanks to all,

*For God & Country,
Michael Paul Melgoza*

5 Freebies at 453!

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Lending Library (book shelf off the game room) | 4. Technology (Wi-Fi/Computer) |
| 2. Lunch (Mon-Thu) | 5. Karaoke (Tue, Fri, Sat) |
| 3. Coffee /Newspaper | ☺ |

September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Karaoke Legion Meeting 7 pm	2	3	4 Karaoke Aux "Picnic" Dinner - 6-8 pm	5 Karaoke
6 Joann & Co. Breakfast 10-noon	7 Labor Day Cookout on the Patio	8 Karaoke	9 Aux. Meeting 7 pm	10 SAL Meeting 7 pm	11 Karaoke Legion Dinner 6-8 pm	12 Homeless Veterans Run & Fundraiser Karaoke
13 Legion Breakfast 10-noon <i>Riders Meeting</i>	14	15 Karaoke Legion Exec. Board 7 pm	16	17	18 Karaoke Riders Dinner 6-8 pm POW/MIA Day	19 Karaoke
20 Riders Breakfast 10-noon	21	22 Karaoke	23	24	25 Karaoke SAL Dinner 6-8 pm	26 Karaoke
27 SAL Break- fast 10-noon	28	29 Karaoke	30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3 LUAU!!

From the 1st Vice Commander



So far, the 2015-16 year for Post 453 has kicked **MEMBERSHIP** off with 40.6% of membership. National will increase annual dues to \$40 in 2016, so it is to your advantage (and the post's) to renew at the rate of \$35 before the end of 2015.

(Please see Commander's article for details of the increase.) Your membership renewal also helps the post retain the outstanding placing we possess in the 5th District meetings.

Considering the numerous events and projects Post 453 Legion, SAL, Auxiliary and Riders will undertake in the last four months of the year, it behooves everyone to renew NOW so you can continue to participate in the camaraderie at Post 453. Remember, renewing now saves you money, helps our standing district-wide, and as always continues some lifetime friendships former here.

We always welcome veterans here and if I can be of any assistance, in membership, please let me know.

For God & Country,
Mario Gutierrez

Chaplain's Corner



We recently celebrated the life of longtime Legionnaire Tom Campbell. Fifteen members of his family attended because they knew how much his Post Family meant to him. During the service I shared the audio of a YouTube video entitled "Fought for You." And after dinner the adults let me share the video with the children. The video demonstrates what the American Legion represents: Sharing our experiences of the great wars, supporting our veterans and their families, and supporting those who defend our nation today. My prayer is that all of you who are able to share this video with others, WILL do so. We are so much more than a place to drink. We are the American Legion! The Auxiliary, The Sons, The Riders. We began in 1919 with the Purpose of serving God and Country. We do that. And at Love Field Post 453, we do that very well.

For God and Country,
Ed Kownslar
Post 453 Chaplain and Adjutant

3rd Annual Homeless Veterans Benefit

On September 12, the American Legion Riders of Love Field Post 453 will host their 3rd Annual Homeless Veterans Benefit Run. All funds raised will be donated to the Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas (HVSD) for use in providing emergency housing, food, clothing, job training, and child care for in-need veterans and their families.

Since its inception in 2013, our benefit runs have generated over \$350,000 in donations of money, clothing, food, and personal care items to the HVSD. Officially, there are about 1,500 homeless veterans, and about 70 dependent children, living in the Dallas area. It is estimated that the actual number of homeless veterans living in the Dallas area is closer to 2,000.

Our 3rd Annual Homeless Veterans Benefit Run includes a motorcycle poker run with stops at local watering holes where participants may enjoy a beverage while enjoying the company of other motorcycle enthusiasts.

The poker run will end at Post 453 at about 2 PM where a num-

ber of activities are planned to complete the day's fundraising.

There will be a cake walk, and a washer tournament followed by a sumptuous barbecue for a donation of \$10. A 50/50 drawing and a raffle for a beautiful, handmade quilt are also scheduled for the afternoon.

Every participant in the poker run and everyone making a \$10 donation for the barbecue meal will be entered in a drawing for one of our many fine door prizes. All proceeds to be donated to the Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas.

Our donations to the HVSD allow them to provide much needed services to hundreds of veterans and their families. Although the Legion Riders have been successful in supporting our veterans, the need is greater than we can provide alone.

We depend on the support of our local community, both citizens and businesses, in order to meet the needs of our homeless veterans and their families. Your donations of cash, merchandise, or services can help house, nour-



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
LOVE FILED POST # 453

3RD ANNUAL
HOMELESS VETERANS BENEFIT RUN
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

9:00 am – REGISTRATION STARTS 9:50 am – ROAD CAPTAIN/SAFETY MEETING
10:00 am – KICKSTANDS UP

\$15.00 PER RIDER/DRIVER \$5.00 PER PASSENGER (CAGES ARE SAME PRICE)

ROUTE INFORMATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

LAST STOP WILL RETURN TO AMERICAN LEGION POST #453 AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00 PM

WE HAVE A 50/50 AND A QUILT RAFFLE
(CONTACT KK AT 972-746-9775 OR kk.hartog.2010@gmail.com)

UPON ARRIVAL BACK AT POST 453 AT THE END OF THE RUN, THERE WILL BE A MEAL SERVED FOR A \$10 DONATION.

WE WILL ALSO HAVE WASHER TOURNAMENTS AND A CAKE WALK

Contact Tom Ludston (Brother Tol) with any questions or concerns.
214-476-5881 or Zborotherto@gmail.com



ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
THE HOMELESS VETERANS SERVICES OF DALLAS



ish, and clothe those who have honorably served our country and now find themselves on the street. Your gift, and those of your neighbors, will make a difference in the lives of those brave men and women, wounded in flesh and spirit, as they struggle

to rebuild their lives.

More information on the Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas can be found at www.va.gov/homeless/

No Veteran Should Be Without a Place to Call Home.

Reserve our Front Room

Call **Frances Pearson** at 214-704-0516 or 972-438-9509 to check rates and availability.

- 2755 Bachman Dr. Dallas TX 75220
- phone: 214-358-2934
- www.AL453.org
- email: AL453@sbcglobal.net
- fax: 214-358-0558

Facebook - [American Legion Post 453](#) or [Love Field Post 453 American Legion Riders](#)

Licensed

Gary Callahan

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(214) 478-7895



Sharon Shumate
Independent Beauty Consultant

803 Ridgecrest Dr.
Irving, TX 75060
214-789-4883

www.marykay.com/sshumate3

Office Hours:
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday thru Friday

SECURITY STORAGE

2601 Willowbrook Rd.
Dallas, TX 75220

Resident Manager
DEL MARTIN

Telephone
214-352-1575



Bob Sheeley, CPA
bsheelley@sfscpa.com

phone 214.363.5303
fax 214.696.0341

efax 866.850.2108
mobile 469.446.9911

14465 Webb Chapel Rd • Suite 100 • Dallas, TX 75234