



Love Field Gazette

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

Legion

Commander Bobby Vandenbush

1st Vice Mario Gutierrez

2nd Vice Francis "Stony" 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

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Historian Janey Barrett

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Legion Riders

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2755 Bachman Dr.

Dallas TX 75220

Ph: 214-358-2934

Fax: 214-358-0558

Hall Rental: Frances Pearson

214-704-0516 or 972-438-9509

www.AL453.org

Email: AL453@sbcglobal.net



American Legion Post 453
& Love Field Post 453 American
Legion Riders

February 2016

From the Commander



A very Happy New Year to the Love Field Post 453 family. We had a good turn out for our New Year's Party with Troy hosting karaoke. A champagne toast at midnight welcomed

in 2016. Let's hope for continued growth in the New Year as we work to recruit our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Our long-term viability requires that we grow our membership by welcoming our young men and women veterans and their families.

You may have noticed that the post added 3 more handicap parking spaces for a total of 6. Special thanks to **Winston** for his work in reinforcing and mounting the 3 damaged handicap parking signs and for installing the 3 new signs.

A recent inspection from the City of Dallas health department found just a few items to correct. A major fault found by the inspector was the smoking area just outside the front entrance. City ordinance prohibits smoking within 15 feet of any building entrance. A temporary "No Smoking" sign was posted but was later removed by unknown persons. Should the health department conduct a surprise visit and find evidence of smoking within 15 feet of the front door, it's possible we could lose our food license. Our Friday dinners and Sunday breakfasts are a major source of funds for each post family – let's not jeopardize our license by smoking just outside the front entrance.

Not to belabor the subject with yet another smoking issue, but I have received a number of complaints about the growing number of cigarette butts thrown on post grounds. I assume many of the discarded butts are deposited by visitors who are unaware of the presence of butt cans located around the property. Please remind visitors not to trash post property by using a butt can to dispose of their cigarette butts.

As we ended another year of support to the **Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas** (HVSD), our efforts were recognized at a special dinner held at the HVSD on Dec. 19, 2015. The Legion received a beautiful plaque from **Ken Watterson**, Director of the HVSD, in recognition of our continued support to the veterans of the Dallas area.

Many of you remember **Charlie** and **Lavonia Hale**, long-time members of the post and strong supporters of the American Legion Riders. At the Feb. 7 Legion Riders meeting (1 p.m.), a special memorial to Charlie and Lavonia will be dedicated. All members of the Post 453 family are invited to this special dedication.

The protection of our liquor license is of prime importance as the loss of thousands of dollars in monthly canteen profits would likely force closing of the post. For this reason, each member is re-



sponsible to ensure all TABC laws are followed. No liquor should be carried on or off post property. And our canteen staff is required by law to refuse service to any member or visitor that appears intoxicated. If you believe that a member or visitor is too intoxicated to drive safely, please urge them to call a taxi. The post will pay cab fare for members unable to drive safely.

To clear up confusion over cash advances on credit cards, members may request cash up to a maximum of \$50 through the canteen. An ATM in the post is available for those needing amounts larger than \$50.

Representatives from the Home Depot visited our post to compile a list of renovations they will make to the post funded by a grant from the Home Depot Foundation. The Foundation is dedicating no less than \$1 million for American Legion projects throughout the country. The Foundation grants provide Legion posts with funds and volunteer help to fix the little things that make huge differences: weatherizing windows, insulating attics, interior and exterior painting, installing new ceiling tiles, replacing fans and replacing flooring. Our thanks Home Depot for their support. In addition, a number of Dallas police officers from the Northwest Division have also volunteered their time to help with post renovations.

After many years of service to Love Field Post 453, **Canteen Manager Joann** submitted her two-week notice on Jan. 21. Until the Executive Board selects a replacement for Joann, **Donna** is appointed interim canteen manager.

The price of our Sunday Bloody Mary and Mimosa drink specials has been raised from \$1.75 to \$2 - still a great buy along with our \$5 breakfast.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year to all members of Love Field Post family and thanks for your continued support.

Bobby Vandenbush

Love Field Gazette

From the 1st Vice Commander



A new year is upon us and with the imposed yearly membership dues increase starting in **MEMBERSHIP** 2016, all seems relatively well. For the record, American Legion Love Field Post 453 would choose not to increase annual dues, but because National increased its amount \$5, we had to go with \$40, up from \$35 in order to maintain our budget. We will persevere regardless. This Legion Post is known for involvement, volunteers, community assistance, as well as maintaining (as the Canteen wall states) Honor – Courage – Commitment. We are still a top post percentage-wise. As of Jan. 27, Post 453 stands at 91.08% of our membership goal. We need our usual working members but we could always use you for assistance for the various projects we undertake annually.

Every member is important to American Legion Love Field Post 453, but we can accomplish much more. If you don't think we have a project to suit you, come join us and help establish that NEW idea and take it to fruition, or help in bringing in new members. Overall we CAN, and WILL BE a TOP American Legion Post of North Texas.

*For God and Country,
Mario Gutierrez, 1st Vice Commander*

Chaplain's Corner



Blessings to all.

It would be easy anymore to believe that we in this country are at war; a war between ourselves and against forces overseas. But I would like to relate how it is on my block in America. My neighbors on one side are Buddhist Korean. The neighbors on the other side are Catholic Hispanics. One house to the other side is an African Methodist Episcopalian, while on the other side lives a Caucasian Baptist. We don't have a problem between us on my block in America. Down the street there is a Korean Karate dojo next to an Indian food market next to a small Muslim prayer room. On that block Indians shop with Pakistanis, Buddhists eat with Muslims next to Catholics, Hindus, and atheists. On my block in America all of God's peoples live their lives in harmony, in faith, in pursuit of better lives for their children. There is but One God, and WE ARE ONE; we live, we move, we have our being in this all powerful, ever-living, ever-loving God. Fears can be dispelled, hatreds vanquished, lives lived with joy, peace and love, if we all acknowledge that this true. Please join me on my block in America. Peace be with you.

TAPS

J.R. Ward (Memorial service at the Post on Feb. 2 at 1 p.m.)

SICK CALL
Otis Robbins

*For God and Country,
Ed Kownslar, Chaplain*

From the Auxiliary President



HAPPY NEW YEAR! The Holidays were a very busy time for Unit 453. We started by pulling down all the decorations from the attic to put a festive touch on the building. Our ladies also provided wonderful side dishes for the 24-hour Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and we also helped to set up and clean up. It was not all work

though; we also hosted the annual Christmas Party and helped to organize the New Year's festivities. I tried to personally thank each and every one of you that volunteered and helped to make all of these events a success – YOU MADE 453 "THE PLACE TO BE".

2016 is now upon us and the first order of business is to make sure that your membership is up to date. A list of those that still need to

renew has been given to the canteen and privileges can be revoked if 2016 dues are not paid.

Once you renew, membership Cards will either be left behind the bar or they will be mailed to the last address that we have on file. Some have been returned due to incorrect addresses. Please make sure that we have correct names and addresses on file. Also, send me your email address and I will be sure that you are kept abreast of all of the activities involving your ALA and Post 453.

Thank all of you for your continued support of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 453.

"Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one" – Brad Paisley

May 2016 be filled with love, laughter and good health,

Jan Velasco



From the Riders



Happy New Year to the best ALR group in District 5. It's been my great pleasure to have served as your Director for these past years. As you know, my election to Post 453 Commander has given me loads of new responsibilities. For this reason, and to allow other members the pleasure of holding the position of ALR Director, I ask that interested Riders consider running for ALR Director for the 2016/2017 year. The only firm requirement is that the candidate for director be a Legionnaire. I promise to work with the new director to ensure a smooth transition. In the unlikely event that no candidate steps forward, I have no problem remaining as director. Should you meet the qualification for the position, please consider running for the 2016/2017 year.

At our Feb. 7 meeting, we will hold a special ceremony to honor **Charlie and Lavonia Hale**, long-time Legion Rider supporters, with a memorial display of Charlie's ALR vest. A big thank you to **Brother To** for his fine work in creating the display case for Charlie and Lavonia's vest. Once the memorial display is mounted, we can hang the balance of awards and recognitions received by our Legion Rider

group on our assigned wall in the meeting room.

Our friends at the Lake Texoma American Legion were notified by the Army Corps of Engineers that their building plans were approved. We will be notified when they are ready for volunteers to help with the rebuilding. Follow our Facebook page for details as they become available.

A special recognition dinner was held at the Veterans Resource center where the Love Field American Legion Riders received yet another award from the VRC for our dedicated support of Dallas area veterans. Brother To was also honored as Supporter of the Year by the VRC. Please extend Brother To your thanks for his support of our veterans. I believe Brother To is also looking for a volunteer to cover his coffee collection run in the event he is out-of-town.

We continue to grow and attract new members through our service to our veterans and the local community. Let's keep the momentum going in 2016.

It is my great pleasure to serve as director of this great organization. Thanks for your support.

Bobby

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Legion Meeting 7 PM <i>Karaoke</i>	3	4 Leatherneck Club 7 PM	5 Riders Dinner 6-8 <i>Karaoke</i>	6 <i>District Prayer Breakfast 9AM</i> Mardi Gras Party Karaoke Style 8 PM
7 Rider Breakfast Riders Meeting 1PM Super Bowl Party 3 PM	8	9 <i>Karaoke</i>	10 Auxiliary Meeting 7 PM	11 SAL Meeting 7 PM	12 SAL Dinner 6-8 <i>Karaoke</i>	13  Valentine Karaoke Night 8 to Mid
14 SAL Breakfast 10-noon	15 <i>President's Day</i>	16 Legion Exec. Meeting 7 PM <i>Karaoke</i>	17 Patients Day Out 10-2	18	19 Aux Dinner 6-8 <i>Karaoke</i>	20 <i>Karaoke</i>
21 Aux Breakfast 10-noon	22	23 <i>Karaoke</i>	24	25	26 Legion Dinner Phyllis Cooks 6-8 <i>Karaoke</i>	27 <i>Karaoke</i>
28 Legion Breakfast 10-noon	29					



Don't Miss These Events

SAT Feb. 6: 5th District Prayer Breakfast - Four Chaplains program & FREE breakfast in the front room. Everyone is invited to attend.

SAT Feb. 6: Mardi Gras Party - We've got beads to throw and Karaoke. Let's have some fun!

SUN Feb. 7: Super Bowl Party — Terry is firing up the grill around 3:30 p.m. Bring a side dish to share and we'll eat before & during the game. Outside and inside TVs. Food's FREE until it runs out

SAT Feb. 13: Valentine's Karaoke Night - We'll turn down the lights and turn up the romance for a Valentine's Karaoke Party. Everyone who buys a drink between 5 and 10 p.m. gets a FREE raffle ticket. We'll give away a Valentine's Basket stuffed with goodies at 10.

End of an Era

I still don't believe it, but Joann says she's hanging it up after... is it 16 years? Our bartender/bar manager extraordinaire is retiring. I was trying to think of all the things Joann has done for us and here's just a few things that come to mind:

She brought us horse racing, pig races, ASScars, Turkey Bowling, Threes, Family Feud, Trash Omelets, the St. Paddy's Day Party, Texas-OU patio party and my "Cosmo" cocktail. And there aren't very many of us she hasn't helped out a time or two. She is our ambassador of fun and friendship and I, for one, will miss her smiling face behind the bar.

Norma Cavazos

Joann & Tom

