



The American Legion
 William M. Randolph, Post 593
 326 Legion Drive West, Converse, TX 78109
 (210) 658-1111
 Email: Post593tx@yahoo.com Website: http://www.Post593.org

December 2024

Hours of Operation
 Mon-Fri: 2 pm—9 pm
 Sat: 12 pm — 9 pm
 Sun: 12 pm — 6 pm
 (May remain open after posted closing times to serve customers)

Post Home Manager: Tracy Diggs
 Newsletter Editor: Ray Baker
 raybaker013@yahoo.com

Post 593 Officers:
 Commander: Henry Creech
 Past Commander: Jack Leanhart
 1st Vice: Clayton Wallers
 2nd Vice: Kevin Winchowski
 Adjutant: Kellie Warrell
 Finance: Ray Barger
 Chaplain: George Alva
 Judge Advocate: Karen Paris
 Historian: Shelli Creech
 Service Officer: Brad Martin
 Sgt At Arms: Tracy Burkett-Velez
 Hubmaster: Dennis Ducharme
Members at Large: Shelli Creech, Robert Henkel, Alex Linares, Michael Potter, Manny Velez

Auxiliary Officers:
 President: Robin Alva
 Vice President: Rosie Cherry
 Secretary: Sandra Vinson
 Treasurer: Sue Buckley
 Historian: Donna Linares
 Chaplain: Michelle Muth
 Sgt At Arms: Tami Cox
Members at Large:
 Debbie Potter, Patty Keys, Audrey Woodruff

Sons of the American Legion:
 Commander: Rick Moe
 1st Vice: Bill Cox
 2nd Vice: Mikey Wilson
 Adjutant: Joe Falco
 Finance: Dave Paris
 Chaplain: Clayton Wallers
 Historian: Adam Bales
 Sgt At Arms: Brad Martin
 Judge Advocate: Michael Potter
Members At Large:
 Jimmy May, Henry Creech
 Legion Advisor: David Paris

ALR Officers:
 Director: Paul Goymerae
 Asst Director: Ed Richards
 Secretary: Sara Mazac
 Finance: Rob Henkel
 Road Captain: Sean Lowder
 Safety Officer: Josh Blevins
 Membership: Amy Reed
 Sgt At Arms: Buzz Hendricks
 Chaplain: Robin Alva
 Service Officer: Daniel Riggs
 Historian: Julie Evans
Members at Large: Matt Scott, Allen Lowe, Matt Evans, and Mark Luther



Commander's Comments

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I would like to thank our Chaplain, George Alva, and Bill Cox for putting together the Thanksgiving Day baskets. We will have a sign up sheet for our Christmas baskets thanks to an abundance of some items, and only a few others are now needed. A huge thank you to one of our post members who was able to get the turkeys donated for both holiday's baskets. If you, yourself, or someone you know is in need of a Christmas basket, please contact myself or George Alva to be placed on a confidential list.

On a serious note, a big shout out to Ray Baker for producing our newsletter. As we all know, this is his last newsletter. We are in desperate need of someone to take on the newsletter to keep our information going out each month. You do not need to be a computer guru to volunteer for this position, but computer skills are definitely a plus. Please contact me if you are interested, 210-391-7391, If you feel like you might like to fill this once a month necessity.

The 20th District Christmas Party will be on December 6 at our post at 7pm. All are welcome to attend. Past Commanders, please remember to bring a bottle for the raffle drawing. Dinner will be a tamale plate.

The post will be closed on Christmas Day.

January's General Membership Meeting is on January 1. A meeting will be held regardless of a quorum, please

(Continued on page 2, Commander)



Auxiliary News

Howdy!

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you to all members that have renewed their 2025 membership dues. Please see the flyer in this newsletter with a chance to win one of two 2026 memberships. We truly appreciate your continued support. Every member counts and we appreciate each and every one of you.

November has been pretty quiet, however in December, we host the annual Kid's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8th and Senior's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 15th. Please check your emails for opportunities to contribute to these worthwhile events. The community really looks forward to these.

Also, we are beginning to take NEW or GENTLY used items for our silent auction, which takes place during the CASI Chili Cookoff in January. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, so please consider supporting this endeavor as well.

Our next meetings will be on Wednesday, December 4th and January 1st, at 7:00 PM. You are all welcome to come listen and participate in the decision-making process and learn of volunteer opportunities for the upcoming parties I mentioned earlier.

EVERY member matters! EVERY dollar matters! EVERYONE can make a difference!

Robin E. Alva
 President, ALA Unit 593

(Continued from page 1, Commander)

make plans to attend. Nominations for the position of Member at Large will be taken from the floor at this meeting.

Remember that your 2024 membership expires on December 31, 2024. Renew, renew, renew! Your membership is the life blood of the American Legion.

On behalf of the post, and my family, I would like to wish everyone the Happiest of Christmas and a most prosperous New Year. Here's to a wonderful 2025!

For God and Country,

Henry Creech

Commander

SALute From the Squadron Commander



SALute

Hello SAL. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Renewals and new members are important. We're doing a good job so far, but as the New Year approaches, we need to stay ahead of goals. Dues are still a bargain at \$25/year.

The Converse Animal Shelter donations program is underway. There is an info flyer in this newsletter as well as at the Post. This program will run thru February 14, 2025. Please try to support this very important cause.

The annual "Quarters for VA Patients" drive is also underway. We are collecting rolls of quarters to hand out to patients at Audie Murphy during our annual Christmas Visit which is scheduled for December 6. There's still time to donate.

Thanks to all the Squadron members who came out November 15th to greet the following candidate for SAL National Commander, Thom Skelly.

Until next month.....

For God and Country,

Rick Moe

Commander

Sq 593

Riders Report



The holidays are here and the American Legion Riders Chapter 593 is actively involved in full force. Several of us are participating in the Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament on Saturday, 7 December, at 12:00 pm. This is the Championship that was determined after 11 months of competition. The top 8 play to have their name placed on the plaque in the Canteen. Good luck all who are playing.

On 14 December at 0900 is Blue Santa. Shortest organized ride for our Riders. We will have KSU at 0855 and arrive 2 minutes later at the converse Police Station. Our goal is to drop off \$900 worth of Walmart gift cards so the police can purchase Xmas presents for kids less fortunate in the community of Converse. Please be part of this by opening your wallet and helping out. See the attached flyer for further information.

Also on 14 December between 5 – 6 pm, the social will begin for the ALR Xmas Party at the Post. Great time will be had by all this year. We expect a huge turn-out so if you can attend, we hope to see you there. Dinner

will begin at 7:00 pm. The December events for ALR will close out on Wednesday, 18 December, at 5:00 pm. When we depart Post 593 to the first of 4 – 5 houses for the 4th Annual Spiritual Ride. Every year has incurred a greater turn-out and last year's event had 22 riders. If you haven't participated in one of these, it's a ride you do not want to miss.

Finally, 15 March 2025 is coming upon us shortly. That is the date of the 20th Annual Rolling Run. We wanted to make this a huge success so we have a gun raffle with 5 guns. Your ticket will be eligible for each draw (exception is a ticket that already won). The type of guns varied so there's something for each person's likings. See Josh Blevins or any ALR rider if interested in tickets. They are on sale already. See the attached flyer for additional information.

May everyone have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year!

God Bless our Veterans, their families, and the entire Converse community.

Paul "Timmy" Goymerac,

Director, ALR Chptr. 593



1st Vice Commander Report

There is a correction to last month's report. There was a misprint about the app used for signing up new members. Instead of the Legion app, it should have been Legion Plus app (Legion with a plus sign).

While Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership is beneficial to both our Post and the member, it is financially not feasible for many people. While it is considerably expensive, the member never has to pay dues again.

There is another option available. When renewing online, you have the option of renewing for three years. This option serves you, the member, in a couple of ways.

First: If National, State or the Post raise their portion of the dues in the next three years, you are already paid at the lower rate. You will not be charged the higher rate until you renew again after your expiration time.

Second: You will not receive all the renewal notices that National sends out until the end of your renewal period. This saves National funds in mailing costs and saves you from receiving multiple renewal notices.

The three-year option also serves the local Post. When renewals begin each July, our percentage of renewals is already higher. This gives us a head start on membership for the year. Also, if dues go up during this period, the Post still receives the same amount of their share for the remainder of the three-year period.

All of this being said, consider this as an option when you renew. But more importantly, renew soon. Not only so we can reach our membership goals, but so we can keep you as an integral part of Post 593.

Lastly, I wish all of you a happy and memorable holiday season.

Clayton Wallers

1st Vice Commander

Position Open: **Member at Large, American Legion Post 593**

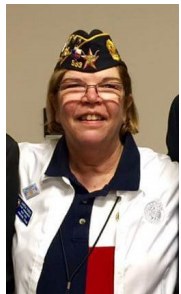
Nominations to fill the vacancy will be taken from the floor during the January General Membership Meeting, election will follow the nomination process. Should there not be a quorum in January, it will be held in February.

Nominee needs to be present to accept the nomination.

January 1, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Post Hall

326 Legion Drive, Converse, TX 78109



Post Judge Advocate

The Executive Committee met on November 20th and approved the changes to the Post Constitution and By-Laws, as presented from the committee of David Paris, Jack Leanhart. And Nick Mills. If approved at the December 4th General Membership Meeting, it will be submitted to The American Legion Department of Texas Judge Advocate. If you would like to review the changes, contact the Post Judge Advocate Karen Paris, or committee members David Paris, Jack Leanhart, or Nick Mills.



FLAGS

It is always wonderful to see our US flag flying on a clear day. You may remember (see the August 2024 Post 593 Newsletter) we presented a US and Texas flag to the new Honor Elementary School in Converse, TX. When the school opened in August, I went to the school, talked to the new flag patrol team about handling and folding the flag and then we raised the flags (see photos). It was an exciting and eventful day for the students. Another flag event occurred on Veterans Day, November 11th. Our Post 593 has continued the decades-long ceremony, previously conducted by the Windcrest Post 612, of placing a US flag on the graves of veterans buried in the Bueche Cemetery located on Crestway Drive in Windcrest, TX. Some background information: the Bueche Cemetery is a Bexar County Historical Cemetery and dates back to the late 1800s as a family cemetery of early settlers in the northeast San Antonio area. It is an actively operated cemetery. Currently there are twenty veteran graves including several Civil War veterans and graves of veterans from all services. The picture below shows me placing a flag on the grave of Eugene Leonhardt, a WW II veteran; we believe the Leonhardts are related back in Germany many years ago. Lastly, as a small Post 593 fund-raising project, I have US and Texas flags, nylon, 3'x5', from the American Legion Store for sale at \$27 US flag and \$28 Texas flag. Just give me a call 210-654-8088 or email jackhleonhardt@aol.com and I will bring the flag to a meeting.



Veterans Day 2024





BRICK FUNDRAISER



We're raising funds to beautify the entrance to our Post by building a flag and memorial monument. We're moving & upgrading our flagpoles and lighting for each flag. The existing Post 593 monument will move to this new location near the church, creating a lasting impression for our visitors and demonstrating our commitment to honoring the sacrifices of those who have served our nation. We invite you to be a part of this exciting project!

You Can Order On-Line at:

<https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/conversetxlegion>

1. What size bricks are you selling:
 - a. 4 x 8 x 2¼: \$125 – Finished Brick
 - b. 4 x 8 x ½: \$150 – Alfagres Wall Tile
 - c. 8 x 8 x 2¼: \$300 – Finished Paving Brick
 - d. 8 x 8 x ½: \$350 – Alfagres Wall Tile
2. Lines and text per brick:
 - a. 4 x 8: 3 lines, 18 characters
 - b. 8 x 8: 6 lines, 18 characters.
3. What else are we selling?
 - a. Souvenir Bricks: These miniature gift bricks feature a felt backing. You will be able to showcase these in your home or office. These smaller souvenir bricks can be made to match a larger brick that was ordered.
 - i. 1½ x 3 x ½: \$25
 - ii. 3 x 3 x ½: \$35
 - b. Donor Bricks: These duplicate bricks with a felt backing can be displayed in your home or office.
 - i. 4 x 8 x 2¼: \$40
 - ii. 8 x 8 x 2¼: \$50

William M. Randolph, Post 593
326 Legion Drive, West
Converse, TX 78109



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT
HENRY CREECH AT (210) 391-7391 OR
DENNIS DUCHARME AT (210) 630-0655



Cheers and Jeers

Are you a fan of the Cowboys but not the Eagles? Love the Longhorns but not the Sooners?

Here's a chance to cheer your team on or poke fun at a rival. Cheers and Jeers lets you show your team spirit or taunt the opposition while supporting Post 593.

Post your team's logo or a positive meme.



Razz the opposition with a discouraging meme.



Keep it clean, no profanity.

Your Cheer or Jeer will play on the Canteen's information screens in rotation with news and other advertisements, all for the bargain price of \$25 per season.

Proceeds go to our post's general fund.



The American Legion William M. Randolph, Post 593

326 Legion Drive, West
Converse, TX 78109
210-658-1111 / www.Post593.org

Flags on Town Square Registration Form

How to Sponsor a Flag

- \$100 per year payable to American Legion Post 593
- Businesses can "Sponsored By"
- Individuals can "In Memory of"
- Proceeds support flag replacements, signs, and Veterans Programs.
- Displayed 6 times a year:
 - Presidents' Day - 20 Feb
 - Memorial Day - 29 May
 - Flag day - 14 June
 - Independence Day - 4 July
 - Labor Day - 4 Sep
 - Veterans Day - 11 Nov
- Displayed in front of Converse City Hall on Sequin St.
- Displayed with a personalized placard

Contact Dennis
Ducharme @
210.630.0655 to
become a sponsor!



Name Phone #

Address

Paid by Cash/Check Date

Email To Be Placed on Sign

Receipt

Received \$ _____ from: _____

Date

For sponsorship for The American Legion, Post 593's **Flags on Town Square** program for 2023.

Received by: _____



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326 Legion Drive, West
Converse, TX 78109
210-658-1111 / www.Post593.org

Post Home Manager's Message

Thank you to the Post leadership for their unwavering support and a very special thank you to you, our loyal customers. This wouldn't be possible without you. You are our friends and we enjoy seeing you every time you walk through the door.



We have an amazing hall for rent for all of your special events such as weddings, quinceaneras, birthdays, anniversaries, reunions, etc. For information or to schedule your party please reach out to me, Tracy Diggs at (210) 658-1111. Tell your friends!



Surprise a friend with a Drink Chip for our Cantina!



In Memoriam

Jack Freytag
Manuel Guzman
Salvatore F. Pests
Ken Rodd



The Newsletter will dedicate the space above to the memory of loved ones who have left this world much too soon. The criteria is as follows: The deceased must be a member of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion Riders, or an immediate family member of such. Specifically, the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of a member. Please inform the Newsletter Editor directly or through one of the chaplains.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Shuffle Bd 7:00 p.m.	3 Coffee & Doughnuts 9-11 am ALR Exec Mtg 7pm	4 Post GMM 7pm Auxiliary Mtg 7pm	5 Dart League 7 pm Pool League 8 pm	6 District 20 Christmas Party 6 pm	7 Post Kitchen Cleanup Noon Pearl Harbor Day
8 Childrens Christmas Party 1:00 PM	9 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Shuffle Bd 7:00 p.m.	10 Coffee & Doughnuts 9-11am ALR GM Mtg 7pm	11 H&E Meeting 7 pm	12 Dart League 7 pm Pool League 8 pm	13	14 BLUE Santa Riders Christmas Party
15 Seniors Christmas Party 1:00 PM	16 Shuffle Bd 7:00 p.m.	17 Coffee & Doughnuts 9-11 am S.A.L. GM Mtg 7pm	18 Post Exec Mtg 7 pm	19 Dart League 7 pm Pool League 8 pm	20 CASI Christmas Party	21
22 Pack Meeting 2	23 Shuffle Bd 7:00 p.m.	24 Coffee & Doughnuts 9-11 am Post Christmas Party	25 Post Closed Christmas	26 Hanukkah & Kwanzaa Begin Dart League 7 pm Pool League 8 pm	27	28
29	30 Shuffle Bd 7:00 p.m.	31 Post New Year's Party New Years Eve				

ATTENTION ALL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEMBERS OF UNIT 593

Our membership goal for 2025 is 263. We currently need **90** members to reach that goal.

IF we can reach our goal of 263 by Christmas Day 2024, we will have a drawing from all senior members and award two (2) 2026 memberships at the January meeting.

Membership is everyone's duty. Please call, text, talk with, e-mail, and ask those members to renew their dues (\$35) for 2025 if they have not done so already. Members can renew online at:

www.ALforVeterans.org (use your member number to set up an account if you have not done so already).

Drop a check or cash at the Post.

Mail a check to ALA Unit 593, 326 Legion Drive W., Converse, TX 78109.

Give someone a Christmas present.

Rosie Cherry

Tuesday Morning Coffee and Doughnuts Plus



Tuesday Mornings

Time: 9-11AM

Open to the public.

**Come join for complimentary coffee,
doughnuts, plus other goodies.
Good fellowship and good conversation.
Every Tuesday Morning, from 9-11 AM**

**William M. Randolph
Post 593
326 Legion Dr W
Converse TX 78109
210-658-1111**

District 20
Dec 6th in our Hall
6:00 p.m.



CHRISTMAS
PARTY





Operation Blue Santa 2024



Accepting Walmart
\$25 gift cards
or cash donations
(Deadline: 13 DEC)

Drop off gift cards
or donations at:
American Legion Post 593
326 Legion Drive West
Converse, TX 78109

Operation Blue Santa program is a cooperative effort through the Converse Police Department, Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association, and Converse Fire Department. The groups raise funds and purchase gifts each year to assist less fortunate children / families in the community with Christmas presents. A party is given with the Blue Santa and the gifts are distributed by Alumni Association members, Police, and Fire Department employees. ALR 593 will take all cards and cash to Converse Police Department at 0900 on 14 December 2024.

Please help American Legion Riders Post 593 in raising funds to support this effort



Any American Legion Rider of Chapter 593 can accept gift cards as well.

(Deadline: 13 DEC)



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

New Year's Eve Party Dec 31 6 p.m.
Hillbilly Hoedown

Converse Animal Care Wish-List

Keeping our animals happy and healthy

This is the SAL 2024-2025 project. Below is a wish list from the care facility. We'll be collecting and delivering items from Oct 11 to Feb 14 2025.



- Cat Litter
- Treats for dogs and cats
- Toys for dogs and cats
- Canned food for dogs and cats
- Puppy and Kitten feeding bottles
- Collars and leashes
- Dawn dish soap
- Hand soap
- Bleach
- Paper towels
- New or gently used towels and blankets
- Cash donations also accepted and appreciated

Contact Info:

Rick Moe (or an SAL Member) — 210-658-1111

Converse Animal Care -210-658-5369



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS Post 593

20TH ANNUAL ROLLING RUN AUCTION



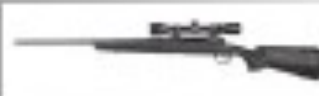
- ONE TICKET FOR \$10 OR SIX TICKETS FOR \$50.
- DRAWING ON 15 MARCH DURING OUR ROLLING RUN
- NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN
- ONLY 1200 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD.
- FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JOSH BLEVINS AT 210-488-7955



1st - Custom Plated Tisas 1911 45mm



2nd - Anderson Patriot 5.56



3rd - Savage Arms .243 Win



4th - KEL-TEC 9mm



5th - G-Force CF99 12G

*Veteran
care isn't
one size
fits all*



NEW PATIENT ORIENTATION

Every Tuesday

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Learn practical tips for navigating
South Texas Veterans Health Care System

To attend South Texas New Patient Orientation on Tuesday,
please visit www.southtexas.va.gov and look for events to join.

For more information on VA Benefits and VA Healthcare, please visit
<https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/> to view and download your welcome kit.

VA



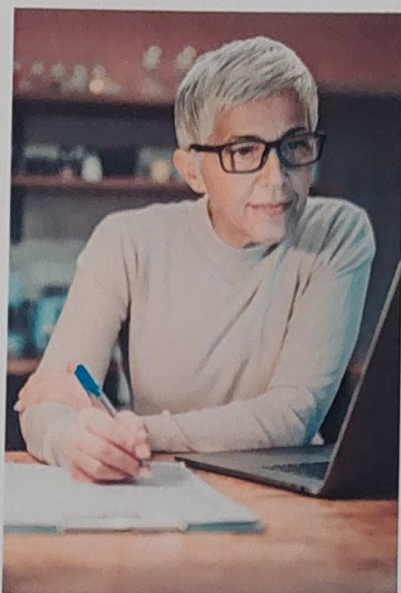
U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



HAVE A QUESTION? CALL US!

The one number all Veterans, their
families, caregivers, and survivors
can use to access VA resources
24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year.

1-800-MYVA411 (1-800-698-2411)



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
South Texas Veterans Health Care System

**Meeting times
and topics:**

**Parkinson's Disease
August 14, 2024**

**Endeavors Supports
and Services
September 11, 2024**

**Intimate Partner
Violence
October 9, 2024**

**Alzheimer's Disease
November 13, 2024**

**Suicide Prevention
for Caregivers
December 11, 2024**

Did You Know?

Presented by Caregiver Support

Monthly educational seminars

Each month your caregiver team will bring in an industry expert to educate on different topics. We want to prepare you for the future, work on the present and process the past. Attend one or attend all the offerings.

Come learn with us!

To RSVP, contact Ms. Stella Cruickshank at
(210) 883-5267.



**HOSTED BY THE
CAREGIVER SUPPORT
PROGRAM**

**Presented Virtually over
Microsoft TEAMS**

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

**210-617-5300 x 19278
www.caregiver.va.gov**

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS THAT SUPPORTS US



9081 FM 78, Converse



7535 FM 78 San Antonio



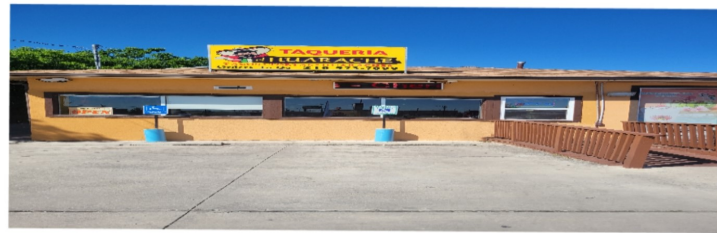
Live Oak



1100 Kity Hwk Rd, UC



3136 Pat Booker, UC



707 S Sequin, Converse



These businesses support our fundraisers with product or gift card - lets support them when you have a need for their product or service

