



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

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MARCH 2011



Commander's Corner

March—I for one am ready for it, and spring weather! Some things we can control and others we can't—the cold snap this year being something we can't. Unfortunately, we can expect a higher utility bill because of it. To help offset this, on our nice spring days I've asked the Post Home Manager to open the doors and further reduce our a/c and heat costs whenever appropriate. Just wanted to let you know why doors are propped open.

Another reason for open doors is to reduce the smoke. We know we have a problem. Even when we refrain from smoking during meals in the hall, those who are allergic cannot enjoy the hall due to previous smoking. We are asking all to help reduce the smoke as well as utility costs. Step outside if possible. A new exhaust fan in the bar area is also helping. We are now moving forward with enclosing the patio facing the street and making it a non-smoking room. We owe it to our friends to at least meet half-way and, though small, this room will be off limits to any type of smoke. We are working

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Auxiliary News

March green rivers, green hair, green clothes, green beer.....The month of the Irish has arrived and none too soon. February was definitely a chilly one but March does look to be promising.

February was a busy month, there is no denying, and I would like to quickly thank some folks. To those that woke up before the chickens to work breakfast, those that took time out of their Sunday to memorialize the Four Chaplains, and last but not least, the Steak Night crew that gave up their Thursday and Friday evening in order to create and serve an awesome meal, you ladies and gents are incredible. I wish there was a more eloquent expression than "Thank You" to express my appreciation. You all deserve it.

March is not as busy for the Auxiliary as February was but I would like to remind you of some upcoming events. March 5th a group of the ladies and a few of the fellas will be participating in the

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(Commander's Corner Continued from page 1)

with the city on code compliances and evaluating how to best do this project. If interested, give you comments to Brown Zavala. Much of this work will be done self-help. We can always use another volunteer.

An earlier general membership meeting resulted deciding to close earlier on Sunday nights. This decision wasn't made lightly. The topic was cussed and discussed, voted on, and implemented with caveats. For example, if business warrants, we remain open later than 6 at night. We had football play-off Sundays where we did just that. Superbowl Sunday is another example where we did not shut the doors at 6. Lastly, this decision is on a temporary basis and will be reviewed again in April.

A big kudo to the new building committee on a successful first-time Valentines & Vegas event. I don't know the numbers yet, but it was profitable. Thanks to all who supported it, and especially to all the workers.

Again, if you know of an outstanding junior, get their name to Paul Crafton for Boys State or Michelle Smith for Girls State. We have to select and forward applications by mid-April. On a side note, yes, now we are behind on our membership goals. We probably all have friends from the Post who have yet to renew for this year (July through June) but may not make it down to visit often. If you know of someone, drop a tactful hint—it will also keep their continuous years going!

Until next month, see you at the Post!

For God and Country,

—David Paris
Commander

Did you know we can make some extra money recycling common household items? Well we can, and we do. Save up your used aluminum cans, batteries, copper, brass and newspapers. Contact John Orff for more information.

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 \$\$\$!



Chaplain's Corner

Legion Family, It is my sad duty to report that Dallas Longsteath passed away in February. He has gone to report to the great Commander of All. Please keep his family in your prayers as they go through this most difficult time.

For God and Country,

--Dennis

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MSWalk with our own Denise Yanus. If anyone would like to join us, you are most welcome. The 20th District's Membership Tour will be making a round of the Legions. March 28th the Ride 2 Recovery will be leaving on its one-week trek from Ft. Sam up to Arlington with the Riders providing escort. The Legion and Auxiliary also are official sponsors of this event.

Mid March is time for our Unit to turn in its consolidated reports to Department. These reports contain information on the events and programs our unit supported over the last year. It also includes community service that our members have done outside the Legion. If any of you have donated your time to other charities or organizations, send me a note of the type of work you did and the hours devoted to it. You can email me at czavala@gvec.net or call (210) 559-6786.

As for April, please put a star in your calendar on April 16th. It is going to be a busy day at the Legion. The 20th District Legion will be holding its Spring meeting. Post 593's Golf Tournament will be taking place, returning to the post for the awards ceremony. The Auxiliary's Lasagna Dinner and Post Dart Tournament will be taking place that evening. As I said, it is going to be a busy day. For later April, negotiations are in the works with Peter Cottontail and his plans for an Easter Egg Hunt.

Don't forget our meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. This month Rosie Cherry will be conducting a mini school on flag etiquette and some of our Texas customs regarding such. Rosie promises it will be educational and fun!

Before I close, a few thoughts of the Irish:

“Remember, even if you lose all,
keep your good name;
for if you lose that, you are worthless.
“Making peace, I have found,
is much harder than making war.”

May the luck of the Irish be yours,

—Candy D. Zavala
President, ALA Unit 593



Rider's Report

Here we are, it's March and we will get the month started as the Riders host the Post Monthly Breakfast on Saturday, 12 March. If you haven't had the opportunity to help out with breakfast, please contact Chrissy Reed or Michelle Smith and let them know you want to help. It's a great way to meet new folks as we serve up the best breakfast in the San Antonio area.

In addition the monthly breakfast, the Riders will also host the monthly Steak Night on Friday 25 March.

We had a great month in February with the Riders receiving a Certificate for our efforts towards the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund for the year 2010. All the members that worked long and hard to make our donation again the largest single post donation deserve a Thank You.

Our own MSgt Belinda (Lee) McCall has joined the group of members who can proudly say they are Retired Military Members. Her retirement ceremony was fantastic. and the Post also gained several new active duty members as well after they spent time talking to our members. We wish Lee and Jay all the best in the future.

This month, in addition to our Breakfast and Steak Night functions, our 7th Annual Rolling Run, which celebrates the birth of ALR 593 will be held on 19 March, 2011. The flyers are posted and if you wish to get some flyers to take to your workplace or other places you might visit, please contact Candy Zavala.

This ride and event is open to everyone, with auctions, \$100.00 per stop awarded at the completion of the ride, vendors, a bike show and music. This event is a great way to prepare our post for the ALR State Rally coming up in May, and is one of our major fund raising events to support the programs we dedicate ourselves to.

March promises loads of fun as well as hard work. Thanks to all of you who help to make everything happen.

—Jim Bennett
Director, Post 593 Riders

General Membership meal prior to the meeting on Feb 2 will be Chicken Tetrazzini prepared by Irma Ducharme.

C'mon on out from 5-7PM for some good eats before the meeting.



Valentines & Vegas Casino Night

Hi Folks,

Our first Valentines and Vegas Casino Night was a huge success. We made \$1,850 for the New Building Fund. Everyone

who attended had a blast. We had a roulette table, craps table, four black jack tables and two Texas Hold 'Em tables. Mr. Rock & Roll was just plain awesome! He changed wardrobes and was an extremely convincing Elvis! And his honoring and thanking veterans for their service was very moving!

Congratulations to Emilio Serrano, the winner of the 42" HD TV raffle. Casino winners were: 1st Place: JD O'Connell, 42" HD TV, 2nd Place: Tom Neeley, Surround Sound System, and 3rd Place: Irma Gonzales, Blu-Ray DVD players

Thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors, folks who donated items, and especially to those who bought a ticket and supported the event.

—Dennis



Whom it May Concern:

My name is Oliver Hill Jr., and I am with Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Greater San Antonio. CCCSSA is a **non-profit**, full service, financial counseling and debt management agency. Since 1984, families have turned to Consumer Credit Counseling Service for help to improve their financial situation.

In this uncertain economic climate we feel it important that consumers know that they have a place they can turn to for help and advice concerning their finances. We offer assistance to anyone who desires to improve their financial standing.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service offers free and confidential budget counseling, student loan repayment counseling, and identity theft counseling to name a few. We also have a debt repayment plan for consumers having a hard time with credit card debt. We offer free financial workshops and classes to the community as well.

Attached is a press release announcing a new program we are excited about designed for our Texas Veterans.

If you would like more information on CCCSSA, please visit our website at www.debt.org.

Thank you,

Oliver Hill, Jr.

Outreach Associate

Ph: 210.979.4435

Fx: 210.979.4330



Contact: Cynthia Hazel
210.979.4411
chazel@debt.org
February 16, 2011

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater San Antonio Press Release
For Immediate Release

**CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING SERVICE OF GREATER SAN ANTONIO
INCLUDED IN VETERANS' ASSISTANCE GRANT**
Funding Used to Support Texas Veterans in Financial Distress

San Antonio, TX – Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater San Antonio (CCSSA) has been awarded a grant by the Texas Veterans Commission to provide services for financially stressed Texas Veterans, their dependents and survivors. The grant covers the client's portion of the administrative cost of the Debt Management Program (DMP).

Debt Management Plans (DMPs) are negotiated payments with creditors that pay off debts with creditor concessions. Since DMPs actually pay off the debt, instead of having a portion of it charged off or "settled", the impact on future credit is more positively treated by potential creditors. DMPs have a maximum term of 60 months to pay off non-secured debts.

The Texas Veteran, dependent or survivor will receive an in-depth analysis of their financial situation and if a DMP is the best solution to their specific needs, the plan is put in place. CCCSSA certified counselors are trained and experienced to help Texas Veterans achieve their financial goals.

The CCCSSA grant is part of \$2 million grant funds awarded through the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veteran's Assistance. Texas Veterans Commission funds will provide assistance to 4,968 veterans and their families.

To learn more about proof of eligibility requirements, contact CCCSSA at 210.979.4300 or 1.800.410.2227 toll-free; or go to debt.org.

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CCSSA is a member of the nation's largest and longest serving national nonprofit credit counseling organization, the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, Inc. Their collective mission is to provide services to consumers to help them achieve financial wellness through financial management counseling, financial education and when appropriate debt reduction services through debt management plans. As a condition of membership, CCCSSA is required to maintain high quality services through standards set by The Council on Accreditation and the NFCC.



Good info for American Legion Members up and down the line. Remember the free benefits they told us about when we joined the American Legion? Well, as a reminder, each of you has \$1000 dollars of FREE accidental death insurance. The only cost to you is that you register every 5 years with the Legionnaires Insurance Trust Company for the coverage. Well, once again, it is time to register for first timers or to re-register for those who have done so in the past. Upon completion, you will then be covered through 2016.

To register on-line, [click on the link below](#) and provide the information requested.

That's all there is to it, so why not do it now!

T. J. Parry
6Th District Hub-master

<http://www.thelit.com/Benefits.aspx>

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.




One more note about the current popularity of the shuffle board. Starting this month a record will be kept in this electronic version of the worst game played for the month. It's called Skunk Of The Month! Sadly, this month, I must name myself, Joe Falco and my partner Dennis Ducharme as the winners. One recent night we were soundly beaten by John Orff and Denny Taylor 15-0 in only 7 rounds. Whew! Or is that Phew? Either way, it was bad.....

I need help in this endeavor. All players and teams may be nominated. I just need an email from someone telling me the story of the nominated game and all players involved. Send them to jfalco@satx.rr.com. This will be fun!

American Legion Post 593



March 2011	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Phone: 210-658-1111			1 ALR Exec Mtg 7:30 Dart League 7 pm	2 General Membership Meeting 7:30 pm	3 Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm	4 Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	5 MS Walk
General Membership Meeting 2 Mar 7:30 PM							
MS Walk 5 Mar							
Chicken Fried Steak Dinner 11 Mar 6-8PM							
Breakfast, 12 Mar 8-11AM							
Training at Post 2 12 Mar							
Rolling Run 19 Mar							
Steak Night 25 Mar 6-8PM							
Ride to Recovery 28-29 Mar							
	6	7	8 ALR Gen Mbr Mtg 7:30 pm Dart League 7 pm	9	10 Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm	11 Chicken Fried Steak Dinner 6-8PM Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	12 Breakfast 8-11 am Division 3 Training Post 2 9am-5pm Info 512-472-4138
	13	14 Dart League 7 pm	15 Dart League 7 pm	16 Post Exec Mtg, 7:30 pm	17 St. Patrick's Day  Riders Grill 6-8pm Dart League 7 pm	18	19 7th Annual Rolling Run Dart Tournament 7:30 PM
	20	21 Dart League 7 pm	22 Dart League 7 pm	23	24	25 Steak Night 6-8PM Entertainment to Follow Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	26
	27	28 Ride To Recovery	29 Ride To Recovery	30	31		