

Newsletter

March 2022



1st Vice's Message of the Month

While all elected post officers support post membership, membership and retention are the primary concern of the First Vice Commander. I would like to discuss two topics with you this month.

First, below is information on your 2022 Legion membership.

Second, I would like to share with you the history and meaning behind the Preamble of the Legion Constitution that we recite during each membership meeting.

Please the **Education Corner** section later in the newsletter for the history.

Membership

Renew your 2022 dues for your Legion membership today! If you did not pay your 2021 dues, the Legion National Commander authorized the waiver of 2021 dues so if you renew for 2022, you will not lose any continuous years of membership.

There are two ways to renew your membership.

1) **Online:** go to www.legion.org to sign in and renew



2) **In-person:** If prefer to pay in person, please stop in at the post on a Friday during the Fish Fry. The 1st Vice, Howard Gravely would be glad to help you. Howard may be reached at

Phone: 508.254.7303

Email: hsgravely@gmail.com

2nd Vice's Message of the Month

It is Boy's State time again. The Department will sponsor the 2022 Texas Boys State Program at the University of Texas in Austin from Sunday 12 June through Friday 17 June.

At Boys State the students learn by doing and taking part in the political process by role playing in civic exercise.

Our Post cost will be \$330.00 / per student plus \$40.00 for five extra t-shirts.

For the last three years we have averaged ten students sent to Boys State.

May 1, 2022 is the deadline for their applications. Boy's State is one of the best programs that the American Legion has.



Newsletter

March 2022

Judge Advocate Corner

May is our election month which may seem far away but will be upon us sooner than we expect! All of the officer positions are open to anyone interested.

The Offices are: Commander, First Vice-Commander in charge of membership; Second Vice-Commander in charge of Americanism programs such as Oratorical and Texas Boys State and Scouting; Adjutant; Finance Officer; Chaplain; Service Officer; Sgt-At-Arms; Assistant Sgt-at-Arms; and five executive committee persons.

At the April meeting, we will have a nomination committee and then the elections in May. At the May elections, nominations will be taken from the floor.

Adjutant's Correspondence

Just a reminder that if you have not renewed for 2022 membership year yet, we would be pleased if you sent in your dues for \$40.00 now so that we can fulfill our goal of 625 members before the 31 May deadline.

- ◆ Our membership is currently at 527 members renewed.
- ◆ We currently have 125 members who renewed for 2021 that have yet to renew for 2022.
- ◆ We have 64 members who last renewed in 2020 but not for 2021 or 2022.

Post 2's Cub Scout Pack 2

The latest is that we have completed the chartering process with the Scouting Council and the Scout Executive is working on getting into the Franklin Elementary School for interested kids and parents for our Cub Scout Pack.

Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

We are looking for a few good men! Seriously, we have an active charter and are looking for men to fill the ranks of Alamo Squadron 2.

A strong SAL will help the Post in supporting the ideal of the American Legion. We are also looking for an individual who would be willing to be the Commander and another individual to be the adjutant to lead the squadron.

SAL members include all males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership.

If you are a Legion member and have young boys or young men, please consider signing them up for an SAL membership!

The experience of the young boys and men in the service and tradition of the American Legion is a truly eye-opening experience.

If you are a Legion member and your parents or grandparents served, you are eligible for a dual-membership.

If interested, please contact
Allen Iott
Post Judge Advocate
or any Officer.



Newsletter

March 2022

A Message for Women Veterans

I would like to address all the women who are members of the American Legion. Learning about the Mission of the American Legion is very enlightening. The Legion is responsible for a lot of the benefits we receive and are always helping veterans and their families worldwide.

During my travels with my RV, I constantly meet veterans who need help with their benefits. The Legion is always there to help. The Basic Training information at Legion.org really helps to understand what the Legion is all about. There are many areas we all can help with.

I am now a member of the Executive Board. We analyze and evaluate the best course of action to take for the betterment of the post and how to complete our mission. As military women, we are essential in completing the mission of helping our veterans and their families. A lot of us have also been disabled in the line of duty.

We have the best leadership team ever at the Post now and need you to come and help. The Legion is never done with the mission of the Four Pillars.

Every Friday we have a fundraiser fish fry. Come in get some fish and meet your Legion Leaders.

Hope to see you soon! God Bless.

Mary Ann Olson

Lt Col, USAF, Retired

Women Veterans

The American Legion provides resources for women veterans to learn about their benefits, advocates for gender-specific health care and fights to end MST.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Basic Training

Learn about The American Legion in this self-paced online course



The Four Pillars of **THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

National Security

Americanism

Children & Youth



Newsletter

March 2022

Education Corner

The Preamble of the American Legion Constitution

For God and Country We Associate Ourselves Together for the Following Purposes:

- ◆ To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- ◆ To maintain law and order;
- ◆ To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
- ◆ To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;
- ◆ To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
- ◆ To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
- ◆ To make right the master of might;
- ◆ To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
- ◆ To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
- ◆ To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Each of the 10 clauses of the Preamble, though brief, has a world of meaning.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER...

This is the introduction. It declares that The American Legion recognizes the influence of Almighty God in all worthwhile endeavors-and declares the allegiance of Legionnaires to both God and Nation. First things have been put first. All that follows is in conformity.

TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA...

The Constitution of the United States is the written bulwark of our free way of life and representative government. It is our guarantee of liberty, freedom, justice and democracy. Members of The American Legion bore arms went to wars-to defend and uphold this document of freedom.

TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER...Without law and order, liberty would become license. Law and order protect our pursuit of happiness, one of our God-given rights. Members of The American Legion served in wars to uphold law and order among nations. It is just as important to maintain the due processes of law in our domestic affairs. It binds Legionnaires to obey the laws of the land and to support the constituted authorities in enforcing those laws. It means the citizen must never take the law into his own hands!



TO FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A 100 PERCENT AMERICANISM...

Americanism is the gist of the American ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights and unfenced-in opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has blazed the world-wide trail for justice, fair play, decency, belief in God, private enterprise, universal education, and progress in all human endeavors. It puts a premium on the virtues of loyalty, patriotism, hard work and thrift.

TO PRESERVE THE MEMORIES AND INCIDENTS OF OUR ASSOCIATIONS IN ALL WARS...

Service in defense of America is the greatest experience in the lifetimes of all veterans. Recalling the highlights of that service means more than flashbacks to tense moments of excitement and danger in battle, the grime of muddy trenches, the perils of sub-infested oceans, the combats in the wild blue yonder. It means also the un-erasable recollection of the comradeship, the bravery of pals, the teamwork, the sacrifices, the miseries and hardships of military campaigns shared in common. It means the bond that binds all ex-servicemen and women together in mutual affection, respect and gratitude. It also means keeping green forever the memories of the supreme sacrifices of gallant American patriots, sacrifices necessary to the winnings of wars. It means faithful annual observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Newsletter

March 2022

Education Corner, continued.....

TO INCULCATE A SENSE OF INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO THE COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION...Always interested in building a better nation, the founders of The American Legion believed that such building must start first with the individual in his own community. So they made it one of the cardinal principles of The American Legion to inculcate that sense of personal obligation to the community, state and nation into the individual citizen. That means educating the citizen-young, old and future-in his and her responsibility to be active in making the hometown a better place in which to live, in discharging the duty of voting in elections, in paying taxes promptly, in contributing to community chest funds and to blood banks. The word "inculcate" means "to impress by frequent admonitions" and "to enforce by frequent repetitions." Like the duties themselves, the reminders that they remain to be carried forward, are never finished.

TO COMBAT THE AUTOCRACY OF CLASSES AND MASSES...This clause places the Legionnaire on the side of right in opposing autocracy by either class or mass when this threatens. In a democracy such as ours, composed as it is of all nationalities, races, creeds and economic groups, there are bound to both classes and masses. Indeed, the masses are composed of classes-but all groups within the mass must feel assured that in this nation, reason and fairness will prevail in all human activities and relations. There must be no hyphenated Americans-just Americans all.

TO MAKE RIGHT THE MASTER OF MIGHT...All wars from the veterans of which The American Legion draws its membership were started by dictators who wanted their might to be the right. If human freedom is not to perish from the earth, right must always be master of might. The rights of small nations must be protected against the tyranny that powerful neighbors may seek to impose on them just as the rights of minorities in our society must be protected and respected. Our belief in enthroning right over might is the main essence of our ideological conflict with Communism today. Legionnaires are pledged by this clause always to stand with the right, protect the weak and preserve the liberties of the individual. This concept is the basis of The American Legion's continued advocacy of a strong national preparedness so as to achieve the ideal situation that right will be backed by adequate might.

TO PROMOTE PEACE AND GOOD WILL ON EARTH...Until all the world becomes a good neighborhood, Legionnaires must continue the effort to promote peace and good will on earth. It is in pursuance of this founding ideal that The American Legion has supported from the beginning and seek to strengthen the United Nations organization. Obliquely, The American Legion also contributes to this ideal by firmly supporting a strong national defense to discourage breaking of the peace by aggressor.

TO SAFEGUARD AND TRANSMIT TO POSTERITY THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY...On this ideal of safeguarding and transmitting to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, all of the youth-training programs of The American Legion are built. All Americans can be proud that in our international relations we have tried to live by the golden rule, the mark of justice. We have granted to others, as we prize it ourselves, the great boon of freedom. Through the Monroe Doctrine, we call a halt to foreign imperialism in the Western Hemisphere. We gave freedom to the Philippines. These principles are part of the American heritage. Legionnaires are pledged to protect and preserve that heritage.

TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR COMRADESHIP BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS...The last or 10th clause of our Preamble is the most important ideal expressed in our Preamble. It marked a new concept in America-a concept that made The American Legion the greatest force for social betterment in all the history of the United States.

Amendments

The American Legion Preamble has been the beacon light of The American Legion for more than 100 years. It has been amended only twice in all that time. The last amendment consisted of removing reference to the "The Great" and adding the "All." It makes the Preamble read today "All Wars," so as to embrace all wars.

Newsletter

March 2022

Useful Info and Links

♦ Calling all Post 2 Volunteers!

Would you like to volunteer at the post during one of our events? To be added to the Facebook Messenger volunteer group chat to find out who, what, when, and where, please contact 1st Vice, Howard Gravely at 508.254.7303 or via email at hsgravely@gmail.com

♦ Renew your Legion membership

There are two ways to renew your membership.

1) **Online:** go to www.legion.org to sign in and renew

2) **In-person:** If prefer to pay in person, please stop in at the post on a Friday during the Fish Fry. The 1st Vice, Howard Gravely would be glad to help you. For questions, Howard may be reached at 508.254.7303 or via email at hsgravely@gmail.com

♦ Complete American Legion Basic Training

Learn about the Legion's history and programs by completing the Basic Training course. The newly redesigned course includes videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and more. It should take less than two hours to complete.

Print your completion certificate and bring it to the General Membership Meeting where you will be recognized and receive your choice of pin for your cap.

Go to www.legion.org/training today!



♦ Do you play an instrument?

Would you like to play in the American Legion Alamo Post 2 Concert Band? Contact 1st Vice, Howard Gravely at hsgravely@gmail.com

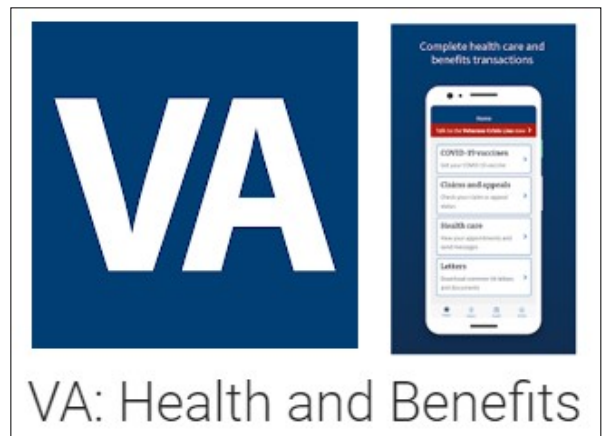
♦ The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a new and easy to use app

Veterans can manage their VA healthcare and benefits on the mobile device.

Use the app to manage common tasks like

- 1) checking your claim status
- 2) communicating with your VA health care team via a secure and private message
- 3) access your VA benefit letters

The free app called, **VA: Health and Benefits** is available for both iPhone and Android at the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store



Newsletter

March 2022

Alamo Post 2 Roster

- ♦ Commander: Carlos Mendez
- ♦ 1st Vice: Howard Gravely
- ♦ 2nd Vice: Beckwith Steiner
- ♦ Post Adjutant: Clayton Rhodee
- ♦ JAG: Allen Iott
- ♦ Auxiliary: Rosie Mendez
- ♦ Sons: Ken Cooper
- ♦ Legion Riders: Carlos Mendez
- ♦ Post Band: Howard Gravely
- ♦ Newsletter: Suzzie Thomas
- ♦ Scouts: Allen Iott
- ♦ Event rentals: Lola Hinojosa
210.685.3130



FISH FRY
Every Friday

** Includes Fish Dinner Plate, Indoor Dining & Entertainment **

\$10 pp Dinner Served 4pm ~ 8pm
Fish Dinner Plate Includes:
2 Fillets ~ Fries ~ Hush Puppies Roll ~ Cookie
~ Drink ~ and Entry into Entertainment

** Now Accepting Credit/Debit Cards All Purchases*

Call-In Your Order for Pick Up
"508-254-7303"

No Outside Food or Bottles Allowed
"Face Masks are Recommended but Optional"

~ This Friday ~
"DJ Music"
&
Entertainment

Admittance Included w/Meal
(5:00 to 8:00pm)
Free Admittance
(8:00 to 10:pm)

\$6 Fish Sandwich w/Fries, Soda

Proceeds Go To Post 2 Building Fund and Legion Outreach Programs
American Legion Alamo Post 2 - 3518 Fredericksburg Rd - San Antonio
(210) 724-4491

Thank you for reading this month's newsletter! Looking forward to seeing you again next month!














American Legion Alamo Post 2

Social Calendar



March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Band practice 	2 General Membership Meeting 	3	4 Fish Fry 	5
6	7	8 Band practice 	9	10	11 Fish Fry 	12
13	14	15 Band practice Legion Founding Day 1919 	16 Meeting of post Executive Committee 	17	18 Fish Fry 	19
20	21	22 Band practice 	23	24	25 Fish Fry 	26
27	28	29 Band practice 	30	31		