

Newsletter

April 2022



Commander's Message of the Month

Greetings fellow Legionaries! Lately it seems that when we send out a newsletter, something catastrophic is occurring somewhere in the world. Just when our focus is off the "Rona," the world is whirled into another dilemma....the Ukrainian/Russian war. War, any war for that matter, is extremely life altering. Not only to the observers, but particularly to the participants. As veterans, many of us have participated in one or another war or armed conflict over the past decades. The winds of war always seems to conjure up memories, feelings, emotions and yes nightmares.

As we watch and listen to the uncertainties in world affairs, we may start to feel uncertain and anxious about our families, friends, our Country and ourselves. If you are experiencing any of these familiar feelings, please don't feel like you are alone. As Veteran brothers and sisters, we can always reach out to one another for support, or to just have a buddy to talk. As your Commander, I thoroughly empathize with those feelings because I too am battling those same memories, uncertainties and anxieties, and nightmares. However, let me reassure you that I am but a phone call away. As Veteran Legionaries, we will face our demons together until we can over come them.

On another subject, I want to thank all of you members and officers who have unselfishly stepped up their level of involvement to help accomplish the many successes that we have attained over past couple of months.

However, many more volunteers are needed if we are going to sustain the next level of service. Our Post is hurting and the level of membership participation is dwindling.

Currently, the Post is only open to our membership one day per week....on Fish-Fry Fridays because realistically, we are manned only to open one day per week. Occasionally, it is open to some other fundraising event or ballroom rental occasionally generating sufficient revenues to cover our expenses and operating costs. Unfortunately, the current level of commitment by the same volunteers is now unsustainable.

Fortunately all is not all gloom and doom. As we approach our Post officers elections in May, new opportunities will arise for you all to get involved. All officer and committee members positions will be open for new nominations. Currently, and until elections date, my duties will shift into the Finance Officer's slot while Joe Sanchez recuperates from medical issues. And, the 1st Vice Commander, Howard Gravely, will shift his duties into the Commander slot. We will further discuss these issues at or next membership meeting on Wednesday April 6.

Again, thank you for your participation and I look forward to seeing many more of you at our next meeting.

For God and Country,
Carlos Mendez, USA/USAF Retired
Post Commander

Newsletter

April 2022

1st Vice's Messages of the Month

Complete American Legion Basic Training

I would like to encourage all members, new and long-time, to complete the American Legion's Basic Training Course which is the best and most convenient way to gain basic knowledge of who we are and what we do.

Many legionnaires want to become stronger leaders and only need the opportunity making continuous training and education programs necessary at every level post, district, county and department. We would like you to especially pay attention to what's included in each of the four pillars.

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!

Verify or update your contact information

I am requesting all members to go to www.legion.org to verify or update your contact information such as address, phone number, email address, etc.

Post Alamo Post 2 Concert Band



Would you like to play in the Alamo Post 2 Concert Band?

Contact 1st Vice, Howard Gravely

hsgravely@gmail.com or 508.254.7303

Friday Fish Fry

The Fish Fry has been a big success in March! The volunteer staff sold 123 plates. The proceeds from the Fish Fry directly support our Post. If you are interested in volunteering to support the Fish Fry, please arrive at the Post at 2:30p on Friday.



Newsletter

April 2022

2nd Vice's Message of the Month

Boys State Program

The Boys State Program has been around over 75 years and is one of the better programs out of the 238 programs that the American Legion has. This program has been a door opener for those who have completed it. On the last day of program there will be 20 colleges there to meet with the delegate and his parent. Many colleges have a Boys State box on their applications.

To be selected as a Texas Boys State delegate we look for a strong academic performance, good interpersonal skills, solid oratorical skills, solid leadership skills, adaptability to stress, to have the ability to accurately prioritize, and have a strong desire to attend Boys State. Plus, he must pass an interview with the Post. On top of this, he must be recommended by his school officials.

As you can see, being a Boys State graduate is a big thing in a young man's life. This training helps train our leaders of the future.

Post 2 is working with three schools to get delegates to attend Boys State. The cost for each delegate to go is \$370, which includes supporting the delegate with five Boys State t-shirts to wear during their attendance at Boys State.

Beck Steiner
2nd Vice
Commander



Adjutant's Correspondence

Membership

Just a reminder! If you have not renewed for the 2022 membership year yet, we would be pleased if you sent in your dues for \$40.00 now so that the post can fulfill our renewal goal of 625 members before the May 231, 2022 deadline.

By the numbers

- ◆ 558 members renewed for 2022
- ◆ 105 members have not yet renewed for 2022
- ◆ 61 members have not renewed for 2021 or 2022
- ◆ Note: 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

How to renew

Three ways to renew your membership:

- 1) **Online:** Go to www.legion.org
- 2) **In-person:** If prefer to pay in person, please stop in at the post on a Friday during the Fish Fry.
- 3) **Mail:** mail your renewal to the Post



Newsletter

April 2022

Ceremonies, Designations, and Honors

Ceremony in Recognition of the Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the United States government's highest and most prestigious military decoration awarded by the President of the United States in the name of the United States Congress.

The award for valor is awarded for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. It was first awarded in



March 25, 1863 with 3,525 total recipients and 618 have been awarded posthumously.

Alamo Post 2 held the ceremony to honor those who are on the Medal of Honor rolls including those from Texas, San Antonio and one from Alamo Post 2. It was a great ceremony commemorating their bravery and acts of heroism! We are already planning for the 2023 commemoration.



Designation of Post 2's "Middle Hall"

The Post 2 Executive Committee deemed the "Middle Hall" area of Alamo Post 2 to be used solely by the Post for Post activities; the area is not eligible to be rented.

If you are not familiar with the area, it is the area in-between the large Hall and the bar, as well as in-front of the kitchen.

Currently on display are photos of Post 2 members in uniform. We're looking forward to exciting Post activities to take place in this area in the future!

Honors

The Post was honored by the Commissioners Court of Bexar County with the beautiful proclamation marking March 5th annually as **Women Veteran Appreciation Day**.

The proclamation will be hung in a place of honor in the post shortly!



Newsletter

April 2022

Events



- ◆ **Buddy Checks and Membership Fair:** Thanks to those post members who made Buddy Check phone calls to fellow Legionnaires in March, as well as to those who made renewal Calls.

As a result, the Post received the following:

- 5 people came in to the Post to transfer
- 13 online renewals
- 9 mail in renewals
- 10 transfers from Holding Post 345



- ◆ **Post Ever Lasting:** Memorial event on April 2nd for Legionnaire, John "Bar Fly"
- ◆ **General Membership Meeting:** Wednesday, April 6th at 6:30pm. Join us!
- ◆ **Friday, April 22nd:** After the conclusion of season of Lent, praise the Lord, Chicken Fried Stake returns to Fish Fridays!
- ◆ **District Meeting:** Saturday and Sunday, April 23rd and 24th
- ◆ **Health Fair:** April TBD

- ◆ **Boys State Fund Raiser:** Saturday, May 1st there will be a fund raiser for Alamo Post 2's Boys State delegates. Rudy's BBQ will be served and Miss San Antonio will attend to show her support of this incredible program and impressive delegates from Post 2. She will be onsite from 12pm to 1pm for a meet and greet, as well as a few words of support.
- ◆ **Election of Post Officers:** Elections will be held at the General Membership meeting on Wednesday, May 4th. In April, the Election Committee will propose a slate of candidates for consideration.
- ◆ **Memorial Day Recognition Event:** On Saturday, May 28th the American Legion has been honored with the opportunity to read the names of those Veterans who were interned within the past year at Fort Sam Houston VA National Cemetery. Due to ongoing construction, the reading of the names will be held at Shelter #5 beginning at 0800. Post members who would like to participate in this event are encouraged to do so. There are between 2,500 - 3,000 names to read. You may read one name or a page of names.

Newsletter

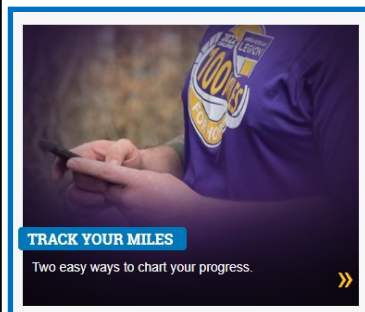
April 2022

Useful Info and Links

The American Legion 100 Miles for Hope

American Legion 100 Miles for Hope is a virtual fitness challenge that raises funds for the Veterans & Children Foundation, and encourages fitness and wellness among American Legion Family members.

You have from March to September 2022 to complete 100 Miles regardless of your activity. Walking, cycling, rowing, running, rucking, canoeing, riding a motorcycle — and many other activities all count.



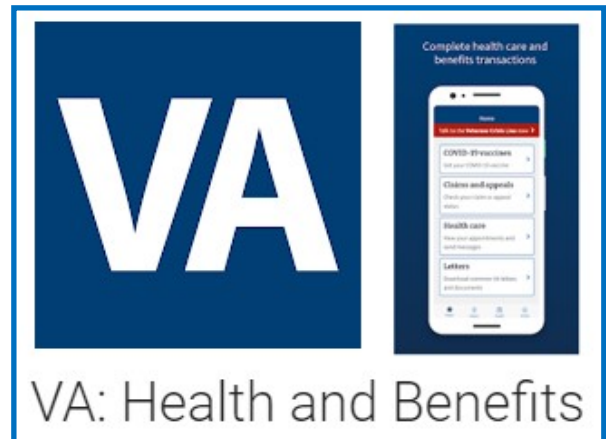
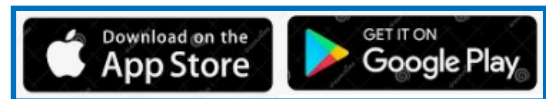
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a new and easy to use app

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

April 2022

***Thank you for reading this
month's newsletter!***

***Looking forward to seeing you
again next month!***



The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.