

From: Commander

To: Family Members of Post 490

Subj: Weekly Report

Good afternoon my fellow Legionnaires,

I want to thank the Coaches of LSA and Legionaries Jessie and Owen for the hard work and dedication that they did to support the American Legion Baseball Team. With the bad weather and the confusion on where the teams were going to play, I believe that South Houston American Legion Post 490 baseball team has shown the professionalism and encouragement for community services the best it has in a long time. The young men that play on the team appeared to be honored to be apart of the American Legion, as well as the parents where a lot of them came up to me and stated that their father or grandfather was in the Armed Services, I would then say, "Let the great Legacy live on and become a member of the Post." Overall, many people in the stands where yelling "Let's go Crusaders". Which made this Commander glad to be a member of this post. They won the first game and then lost the next two games, but they never gave up and was always fighting to move on in the bracket. This team did great, and I cannot wait until next year. LET'S GO CRUSADER!!!!!!!!!

This last weekend the Union Pacific dishes out over 550 BBQ Plates to raise money for "TOYS FOR TOTS". This great organization came together in the heat, they never complain. You can see the drive that they had to raise money for children to have a good Christmas. I was very proud to see that 6 of the members on the cooking team join to become members and are ready to help the trustees in any future projects.

As we move into the new week, I would like the members of this post to remember the Veterans of the Korean War. On the 27th any Korean war Veteran that comes into the club room will receive a Steak dinner until supply last. If we run out, we will give them a rain check for the following Friday. This event will start at 6pm. We must honor these Veterans and never forget the terrible weather that they went through while in Korea and to fight an opponent that did not care about Freedom or Democracy. These Men and Women went to a land to save lives and save the belief of America. I thank each one of you for your service.

I have been working hard on looking for a Public Relations as well as a Chaplin and a Second Vice Commander. I am shocked that there is only one member that sign the election form for the position of Second Vice Commander and no one for the position of Chaplin. I thought I will take this time to explain both positions.

2nd Vice Commander

- The second vice commander is responsible for building an atmosphere in which Legionnaires have fun while accomplishing the mission of your American Legion post.
- The commander depends on the second vice commander to help run operations to spice up meetings and attract members to the post. The social calendar should be filled months in advance with activities designed to engage members.
- One of the second vice commander's first duties should be to contact other veterans and civic groups to verify each patriotic holiday and observance receives the respect it deserves.
- The second vice commander should be looking for ways to involve members in post activities, operations, and programs to assist the first vice commander by providing improved member retention.
- The second Vice commander has nothing to do with the entertainment in the club room.

Chaplain

- The chaplain need not necessarily be a clergyman but must be a person capable of moral and intellectual leadership and one who gives dignity and respect to the office. The chaplain should be in close touch with the commander and other post officers and should attend all meetings of the post executive committee.
- The leadership in many post activities belongs by right to the chaplain, and when this office is filled by the right person, the post's usefulness to the community greatly increases. The Manual of Ceremonies (see Section 2) gives an important place to the chaplain in the conduct of meetings, the observance of patriotic occasions, funeral services, and dedication ceremonies.
- At all these events, the chaplain is the moral leader. The chaplain should work with the post historian on grave registration work and inspire the post to decorate veteran graves on Memorial Day. Besides officiating at post members' funerals when requested, the chaplain can serve their bereaved families. The chaplain may also chair the post's Veterans Administration Voluntary Services (VAVS) Committee, which coordinates volunteer work at nearby VA facilities.
- The American Legion Chaplain's Handbook, available online and through department headquarters, offers guidance for the post chaplain and religious emphasis committee.

Public Relations

Elevates awareness in the veteran's community and the community of American Legion advocacy of veterans issues, national security, Americanism and youth. The American Legion is defined in the public eye by the values it demonstrates.

The public relation accomplishes this in two ways: placing radio and TV advertisements and public service announcements produced by National Headquarters where they can be seen and heard, and developing relationships with editors and journalists in the post's community so they cover programs supporting the Legion's four pillars. For example, the High School Oratorical Contest is the reporter's news peg, but the Legion's support for a "one hundred percent Americanism" is the story. Why and how the Legion is "still serving America" is the question the post's public relations committee should answer in the media. Public relations is a membership multiplier

As you can see these are really important positions to the post and with 1800 members, we need to fill these positions and fill them fast.

Enclosing, On a positive note we have over 500 members paid for the coming year, we have over 50 new members and the Attitude is changing all around. Thank you and have a great week.

John J. Cronin

Commander