

11/14/2021

Oratorical Report

All Posts are reminded that the Department Oratorical Contest is fast approaching. Local competition for the Oratorical Contest will begin after **November 1st**. The District Oratorical Contest will be on January 8th at Post 472. The Division Oratorical will be January 15 at Post 95 in Huntsville. The Department Oratorical will most likely be Presidents Day in February, however it have yet to be announced.

Anyone needing Oratorical training, Please, contact me at Commander@LegionDist22.com



Harry Woodstrom

Oratorical Chair, 22nd District, Department of Texas

22nd District D.E.C.

Commander Report Post 164

November 14, 2021

Post 164 has donated \$300 to Katy Christian Ministries for Thanksgiving meals

Honor Guard has completed 10 Funerals, 2 Flag ceremonies for 215 Service Hours

Conducted a Flag Retirement Ceremony where we retired about 1500 flags

Supported Unit 164 with Pies for Hope.

Chapter 164 hosted a haunted House at the Post Trunk or Treat. They had about 700 people participate in the Haunted House.

Preparing for Post Oratorical Contest

Preparing for Post First Responders Banquet

Preparing for 5th Annual Wreaths Across America event at Magnolia Cemetery on 18 December

Post is sponsoring a family from the Katy VA Clinic for Christmas



Spring Branch Legion Post 654
3105 Campbell Rd. Houston TX 77080
(713) 462-5290

Post Commanders Report to the 22nd District 11/14/2021

The Post fairs well. In the month of October, we had food nights every Friday for our members and guests. The 1st Monday of the month we held our Executive board meeting, on the 2nd Monday we held the SAL meeting and the 3rd Monday we held our AL general membership meeting. During the Month we opened our doors to five different Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club meetings. Our ALA meeting was on the 3rd Wed of October. In the last week of October, we met with Officer of Operation Turkey in order to coordinate using the Post in November to cook 1000 Turkeys for needy families during Thanksgiving. Several of our members volunteered to help cook and the Post will lend our BBQ pits to the cause. We also had 2 hall rentals for the month

November:

We will have food every Friday! 1st Chicken Dinner \$10, 2nd Steak Nite \$20, 3rd Spaghetti Nite \$10, 4th Fajitas or Burgers \$10, and 5th Potluck bring your own!

Nov 11th, we participated in the Veterans Day Parade downtown. Approx 12 members on the float/truck. On the same date we provided 7 veterans a goody bag at the Spring Woods Nursing home.

Nov 13th, we hosted a fajita cook off with the Thin Blue Line Motorcycle Club and had approx. 450 attendees with 14 cooking teams and 4 vendors at the Post.

- 10 service HRB @ the World Series Assisting Veterans Museum working concession stand.

Upcoming:

November 20th, we will be cooking racks of Pork Ribs and whole BBQ Chickens to go. Please see flyer attached. \$* for Chicken & \$20 for Ribs. Ours SAL will be heading this up and the \$ will be donated to the Child Welfare Fund.

Nov 24, Operation Turkey cooking and meal prep will be using the Post overnight to cook, package and provide meals to the public.

Nov 25, Thanksgiving Potluck dinner for the Members & their guests.

End of Report

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harold D. Schreffler'.

Harold D. Schreffler
Spring Branch American Legion
Post Commander

22nd District Executive Committee

Report for November 14, 2021

Judge Advocate:

National has a new Judge Advocate. His name is Mark Seavey.

C&BL's:

Time for Posts to take a look at their C&BL's and make necessary changes to bring them up to date and submit them to Department for review and approval. There were changes made to the Department C&BL's that may affect your Post C&BL's. Suggest you download a copy of them for use at your Post.

The District C&BL's are current as of May 2021. We will continually review them to make sure they are up to date.

Hubmaster:

I have updated the email listing of Post contacts. If you are not receiving communications from this system, please let me know at butchsparks@comcast.net. Also if you have information you would like to share with the District, please send it to me and I will distribute it.

Training:

Attached is the 2021-2022 training schedule for the 22nd District Executive Committee meetings and our spring convention. We had to cancel the Service Officer Training scheduled for this month. We will get this training rescheduled for a future date. District training sites that were scheduled for Post 490 will be provided once the District Commander has identified them.

Respectively submitted

Butch Sparks

Enclosure: 22nd District Training Schedule 2021-2022

22ND DISTRICT TRAINING SCHEDULE 2021-2022

DATE	DISTRICT MEETING LOCATION	TOPIC	PRESENTER
September 12, 2021	Post 521	National Emergency Fund	Butch Sparks, Post 164
October 10, 2021	Post 472	Oratorical Program	Harry Woodstrom 22 nd District Commander
November 14, 2021	Post 164	Post Officer Duties (Overview)	Jim McGuire Post 164
December 12, 2021	TBD	Baseball	John Cronin, Post 490
January 9, 2022	Post 654	Buddy Checks	David Saucillo, Post 319
February 13, 2022	Post 472	Membership Awards	Jim McGuire, Post 164
March 13, 2022	Post 164	Boys State	Jimmy Mitchell, Post 77
April 10, 2022	Post 521	Post Awards	Andy Valadez, Post 164
May 14, 2022 (District Convention)	TBD	Service Officer Duties	Mike Lacy, Department Service Officer
June 12, 2022	Post 472	Americanism	Bill Kennison, Post 164
July 24, 2022	Post 164	Community Service	John Cronin, Post 490

The American Legion

Post 164

22nd District Sign In Date NOV. 14, 2021

NAME	POST#	POSITION
1. Sharon Bradley	Post 77	Dst. Sgt. AT ARMS
2. Jim McGuire	164	Adj. Gen I
3. Harry Woodstrom	164	Commander
4. Alan McQueen	319	Svc officer
5. Robert Martin	494 5A	CHAPMAN
6. B. A. Sparks	164	Judge
7. William Kennison	164	POST ADJUTANT
8. Kendrick Bradley	77	District Vist
9. Lynn Sparks	319	F.O.
10. John J. Cronin	490	Commander
11. Christine Giddis	490	Asst Sgt + Arm
12. Roberto Pochco	472	Commander
13. Edward Runkle	52	Finance Officer
14. Roger Rodriguez	52	ADJUTANT
15. Marty Gonzalez	77	cmdr
16. Hector Hernandez	77	Sgt @ ARMS
17. Terry Ford	416	1st
18. Andy Valdez	164	PR officer

The American Legion

Post. 164

22nd District Sign In Date Nov. 14, 2021

NAME	POST#	POSITION
1. <u>Jimmy Mitchell</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>FINANCIAL OFF</u>
2. <u>Gregorio's Coma</u>	<u>391</u>	<u>Commander</u>
3. <u>DAVID KONG</u>	<u>596</u>	<u>COMMAND</u>
4. <u>E. CORMEUR</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>PAST COMMANDER</u> <u>POET LAUREATE</u> <u>POST JA</u>
5. <u>Ben Edwards</u>	<u>490</u>	<u>Dist Per 1, maintenance</u>
6. <u>James Kirby</u>	<u>416</u>	<u>Post 416</u>
7. <u>Tom Marty</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>PAST POSI COMMANDER</u>
8. <u>Phil MASSBARY</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>VICE COMMANDER</u>
9. <u>Harry Schreffler</u>	<u>654</u>	<u>Cdr</u>
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____
16. _____	_____	_____
17. _____	_____	_____
18. _____	_____	_____

Hector Hernandez- POW/ MIA Committee
131 Wellington St.
Houston, TX 77076-3636
H2HouTXUSA@gmail.com
(832) 212-0775

Report from National Website:

- Report on PFC John Sitarz of Weirton, WV
Report found on the official DPAA.MIL
- Veteran's Day through a photographer's lens

Report on Houston's Veteran's Day Parade

The Veteran's Day Parade was held on November 11th, 2021 in Downtown Houston that included a parade down Memorial Drive. Many of our local Veterans Organizations participated.

Report from Greater Houston National Cemetery Council

- The Council participated in this year's parade. The Council plans to participate in Wreaths across America in December 2021. The Council is also planning on participating in Vietnam Memorial Anniversary and the Annual Memorial Day Observation.

2022 Membership as of 11/10/21

	Post	New	PuFL	TRAD Renewals	HQ Transfers	Total	Goal	% of Goal
TX Dist	TX-0052	4	12	28	0	44	56	78.57
	TX-0077	10	51	86	0	147	284	51.76
	TX-0164	4	53	144	4	205	322	63.66
	TX-0316	0	2	2	0	4	18	22.22
	TX-0319	0	10	29	0	39	79	49.37
	TX-0391	0	3	14	0	17	27	62.96
	TX-0416	0	17	9	0	26	105	24.76
	TX-0472	0	27	78	0	105	230	45.65
	TX-0490	94	231	704	1	1,030	2,074	49.66
	TX-0521	0	44	136	0	180	305	59.02
	TX-0594	0	23	32	0	55	157	35.03
	TX-0596	0	2	23	0	25	33	75.76
	TX-0654	8	38	69	2	117	246	47.56
	TX Dist	Sum:	120	513	1,354	7	1,994	3,936

11/14/2021

The American Legion 22nd District Commander's Report

The Meetings schedule for Post 490 scheduled in December and May have been moved to Post 164 in Katy.

From Department:

We need every post to go to the link below and complete the information requested so we can migrate the data into a database for this feature since we no longer can get this information from Personify.

<https://txlegion.org/post-location-submission-form/>

Reports from National are often incorrect. It is our job to correct them. If they are correctly negative because you have not done your part, then we either need training, a reminder system for activities and reports that are due or you need immediate supervision. If the reports are incorrect and you have done your part, then the responsibility still rests with you to resolve the issue. In either case District will work with you to correct the issue.

Post Information Report. See Attached Report

Membership reports. See attached report

The Boys's State program should be started before the Christmas break. If you need guidance, Please see Jimmy Mitchell.



Harry Woodstrom
Commander 22nd District

ARTICLE II-MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All American Legion Posts in good standing with The American Legion, Department of Texas, Twenty-Second District, shall comprise the membership of the Twenty-Second District Executive Committee, The American Legion, Department of Texas.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. The elective officers of the Twenty-Second District shall consist of a District Commander, a Vice Commander, an Adjutant, a Finance Officer, a Judge Advocate, a Historian, and a Sergeant at Arms.

Section 2. The following officers shall be appointed by the District Commander and must be approved by a majority of the District Executive Committee: Chaplain, Service Officer, Public Relations Officer, Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, District Hubmaster, District Webmaster, and any other Officers as may be recommended by the Commander and approved by the District Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II-DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Twenty-Second District Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers set out in Article IV, Section 1, of the District Constitution, the immediate Past District Commander, and the Post Commander (or appointed alternate) and one member from each Post of the Twenty-Second District; all of whom shall have voice and vote. The appointed officers set out in Article IV, Section 2, of the District Constitution shall have voice but not vote.

Div	Dist	Post	Location	Post Data Form	CPR 21 / 22 **	21 / 22 Certified **	Post C&BL **
2	22	52	HOUSTON	8/16/2021		5/6/2021	10/29/2020
2	22	77	HOUSTON			10/25/2021	0/0/00
2	22	164	KATY	4/5/2021		7/27/2021	6/2/2021
2	22	319	DEER PARK	4/12/2021		6/1/2021	3/12/2021
2	22	391	HOUSTON	3/19/2021		3/19/2021	7/6/2021
2	22	416	HOUSTON			0/0/00	0/0/00
2	22	472	HOUSTON			8/10/2021	10/8/2021
2	22	490	SOUTH HOUSTON	5/28/2021		5/28/2021	6/22/2021
2	22	521	PASADENA	6/14/2021		6/14/2021	3/23/2021
2	22	594	HOUSTON			0/0/00	0/0/00
2	22	596	HOUSTON			9/20/2021	0/0/00
2	22	654	HOUSTON	4/15/2021		4/15/2021	0/0/00

22nd District D.E.C.

Community Service Report

November 14, 2021

Post 164 and Post 472 participated in the Houston Veterans Transition Coalition were about 100 Veterans and family members participated. We did some recruiting and passed out a lot of information about the American Legion

Post 164 and Unit 164 participated in Business after Hours at the Katy Funeral Home for a Halloween party.

Participated in Mo's Place Veterans Diner and Drinks on Veterans Day. Got to meet and speak to a lot of veterans about what the American Legion does for our Veterans and families

Post 164 participated in the Katy Football games Salute to Veterans at Friday night football game.

Post 164 completed a Flag Retirement on November 13, 2021. State Representative Mike Scholfield attended the Flag Retirement. We retired about 1500 flags

AMERICANISM
AT
District 22

The American Legions pillar #3 is Americanism and it shows **our** respectful observance of Patriotic Holidays.

AMERICANISM is about;

Oratorical Competition

This Program helps High School students with an understanding of the U.S. Constitution because they must research it for their speech.

Junior Shooting Sports

This is a program to teach young students about gun safety, and marksmanship.

Flag Protection

This program will increase awareness of how to display our Flag and proper and dignified disposal. Thanks to the Post's that show and tell about their Flag retirement services.

Notes;

Posts need to create a Web Site to show their value in and around their community. If you have a Web Site please think about adding your Officers to it.

This is my report on some of the Americanism Programs.

William Kennison, Committee Chairperson
November 14, 2021

National Security

American Legion Resolution and Policy on Immigration was published in 2010.

IN it, it Detailed the economic cost AND security cost to our NATION

By not controlling the border AND

Updating the Immigration Policy.

Yet the American Legion is not prioritizing control of the border OR immigration.

The American Legion National Commander

Presented AN Agenda to congress in

September AND NO WHERE in his agenda

did he talk to the issue of NATIONAL security on the border. I propose more

that we send A letter to Department

questioning why Border Security is not

A MAJOR issue.

379 Rpt

Passed out safety material
at Pasadena City Halloween event

First Responder Banquet
for Deer Park & Present 2
Harris Co.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
POLICY ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION



**A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION
IN THE UNITED STATES**

The American Legion is opposed to any person or persons being in this country illegally, regardless of race, sex, creed, color or national origin. We believe the current laws governing immigration should be enforced impartially and equally.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Situation Analysis	2
• Overstays	4
• Crime and Terrorism	5
• Education	6
• Employment and Wages	7
Proposal for U.S. Immigration Reform	8
• Step One – Border Security	8
• Step Two – Eliminate Jobs Magnet/Benefits	9
• Step Three – No Amnesty	10
• Step Four – Reduce Illegal Population	11
• Step Five – Screen/Monitor All Foreign Visitors	14
Conclusion	16
Appendix A – American Legion Positions	19
Appendix B – Message Points	25
Appendix C – Strategy to Address Illegal Immigration	29
Sources	inside back cover

This booklet is not intended to be a technical manual or an extensive compendium on the many aspects of illegal immigration. The items brought out in this brief review reflect, in the opinion of The American Legion, the more recurring concerns raised in debate on the issues of illegal immigration, whether the debate be within the halls of Congress or among the American people.

INTRODUCTION

The American Legion members have served in the U.S. Armed Forces throughout the world so that Americans can be safe at home. They know Third World countries. They have seen poverty, political instability, disease and war. The sacrifices they have made give them a perspective on national security issues that many Americans do not have. Today, they see the threat that open borders present to their homeland.

Legionnaires subscribe to a creed, “To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order, and to foster and perpetuate 100 percent Americanism.” These words represent a continuing contract of service to America and this commitment by Legionnaires drives the call for action on illegal immigration and other national security concerns facing this country.

The American Legion has been a leader in mentoring candidates for U.S. citizenship, from the beginning of the organization. Working closely with the U.S. federal courts, it conducted naturalization schools throughout the country, teaching immigrants how to become proficient in the English language and about U.S. history and our government. The Legion helped new citizens become contributing members of our society.

Today, the American public is divided on how to deal with illegal immigration. Solutions come from the far left and the far right — from strict enforcement to general amnesty — from fraternal and religious organizations, immigration reform groups, and government agencies. How to address illegal immigration is driven by economic, national security, and humanitarian concerns. Differences are so vast that it is unlikely any congressional immigration reform package will meet with widespread approval from the increasingly frustrated populace.

Recognizing the magnitude of the issue and with the best interests of the country in mind, The American Legion offers its assessment of the situation and a general plan on how to deal with the illegal immigration problems in the United States.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

The security, economy, and social fabric of the United States of America is seriously threatened by individuals who are illegally in this country. They are undocumented, live in the shadows of society and by failing to assimilate into our culture divide America into ethnic enclaves. The words “undocumented” and “illegal” are synonymous and describe those immigrants who: 1) enter illegally across our nation’s borders; and 2) those who enter legally and illegally overstay their visas.

The number of illegal immigrants currently in the United States is uncertain. Estimates range from nearly 12 million (Pew Hispanic Research Center, 2008), to 13 million (Federation for American Immigration Reform, 2007), up to 20 million (Bear Stearns Report, January 2005). It is also not known just who these people are, exactly where they came from or what their intentions might be.

There are many proposals to reform the nation’s immigration laws, ranging from strict enforcement provisions to an across-the-board amnesty. The two sides, however, are miles apart and it is unlikely that any solution will be fully acceptable to all concerned.

The American Legion, a war-time veterans organization of 2.4 million members, supports an immigration policy that eliminates social, economic and population problems resulting from illegal immigration. But above all, the Legion views illegal immigration as a national security issue in its truest sense. It urges Congress to act responsibly in addressing the issue by accepting its responsibility as outlined in the U.S. Constitution. “To provide for the common defense.” More importantly, to provide for the safety of the citizens of this country.

Illegal immigration is a violation of the law. Title 8, Section 1325 of the U.S. Code – Improper Entry by Alien, states:

Any alien who:

- 1) enters or attempts to enter the United States at any time or place other than as designated by immigration officers; or*
- 2) eludes examination or inspection by immigration officers; or*
- 3) attempts to enter or obtains entry to the United States by a willfully false or misleading representation or the willful concealment of a ma-*

terial fact shall be fined or imprisoned for up to six months. Repeat offenders may be fined or imprisoned for up to two years, or both.

The U.S. Code also addresses those groups and individuals who assist aliens in illegally entering or residing in the United States. Summarizing the law against hiring or harboring illegal aliens, the Federation for American Immigration Reform [FAIR]¹, notes:

A person (including a group of persons, business, organization, or local government) commits a federal felony when he:

- *Assists an alien s/he should reasonably know is illegally in the U.S. or who lacks employment authorization, by transporting, sheltering, or assisting him or her to obtain employment, or*
- *Encourages that alien to remain in the U.S. by referring him or her to an employer or by acting as employer or agent for an employer in any way, or*
- *Knowingly assists illegal aliens due to personal convictions.*

Penalties upon conviction include criminal fines, imprisonment, and forfeiture of vehicles and real property used to commit the crime.

Anyone employing or contracting with an illegal alien without verifying his work authorization status is guilty of a misdemeanor.

The code is clear and to the point. So, what's the problem? In a word: **ENFORCEMENT**. It is a law that is on the books, but is not widely imposed.

Illegal immigration is not a victimless crime. The poor, minorities, children and individuals with little education are particularly vulnerable. It causes an enormous drain on public services, depresses wages of American workers, and contributes to population growth that, in turn, contributes to school overcrowding and housing shortages. Directly and indirectly, U.S. taxpayers are paying for illegal immigration.

The costs of illegal immigration in terms of government expenditures for education, criminal justice, and medical care are staggering. In California alone illegal immigration is "costing the state's taxpayers more than \$10.5 billion per year," according to the Federation for American Immigration Reform.² Since states must pay the high cost of providing such services, illegal immigration has become one of the largest "unfunded" federal mandates.

Although many of the largest costs are at the state and local level, there are also significant costs at the federal level. According to a 2010 report by the Federation for Immigration Reform, the combined federal/state outlay for services and benefits provided to illegal aliens totals more than \$108 billion annually.³ Even though federal laws require public assistance agencies to verify that a recipient of services is in this country legally, some agencies fail to verify that eligibility.

Overstays

There is within the illegal alien population, a large segment that is often overlooked and under reported. With government attention and the media spotlight on our southern border, it would seem that the illegal alien problem is centered there. It isn't. The illegal population now in the United States is near equally split between those who evaded detection on entry and those who entered legally, but remained long after their legal status expired. They are referred to as "overstays," and they are then residing in the U.S. illegally.

Legal entry by various modes of travel allows access through seaports, airports and border crossings north and south. In effect, our front door is wide open to the world with entry monitored by government. But the inability of government to oversee the outflow and account for those who remain beyond their allotted time, feeds the growth of the illegal population.

According to a May 2006 Congressional Research Report [CRS] to Congress⁴, "It is estimated that each year hundreds of thousands of foreign nationals overstay their non-immigrant visas or enter the country illegally (with fraudulent documents or bypassing immigration inspections). The most recent published estimate based upon the March 2005 Supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS) is that 11.1 million unauthorized aliens were residing in the United States in 2005. Reliable estimates of the number of non-immigrant overstays are not available, and sample estimates range from 31 percent to 57 percent of the unauthorized population (depending on methodology)."

In their May 2006 study "Modes of Entry for the Unauthorized Migrant Population," the Pew Hispanic Center⁵ reported that as much as 45 percent of the 11.5 million to 12 million illegal aliens they estimate to be in the United States came legally. The rest, "somewhat more than half," entered illegally.

Crime and Terrorism

Lax enforcement of immigration laws has invited the criminal element to our society. Alien gangs operate in most, if not all, major U.S. cities. Human and drug smuggling operations are numerous along our southern border.

In a 2008 news release⁶ the Department of Homeland Security states: “ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) estimates that about 300,000 to 450,000 criminal aliens who are removable are detained each year at federal, state and local prisons and jails.”

The vulnerability of this country to acts of terrorism because of our porous borders and lack of enforcement of immigration laws has most Americans concerned, and rightfully so. Last year, thousands of illegal immigrants were apprehended entering the United States from countries with known terrorist connections. These countries included Afghanistan, Angola, Jordan, Pakistan and Yemen. It was reported by *The Christian Science Monitor* that 44,000 OTMs (Other Than Mexicans), most of which are from Central America, entered the United States illegally in 2004 alone.

The chaotic situation in Mexico makes lax border enforcement a national security threat. At least two major rings have been uncovered, which smuggled Middle Easterners into the United States via Mexico. In 2001, Iraqi-born smuggler George Tajirian pled guilty to forging an alliance with a Mexican immigration officer, Angel Molina Paramo, to smuggling 1,000 Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni, and other illegals into the country from Mexico.⁷ Until his arrest in 2002, Salim Boughader Mucharrafille, who ran a café in Tijuana, Mexico, also smuggled Lebanese illegal immigrants into the United States.⁸

In 2005, U.S. Representative Silvestre Reyes (TX) said in a news release issued from his office, “This year alone, more than 75,000 immigrants from countries other than Mexico have illegally crossed the U.S.-Mexico border, with approximately 36,500 crossing in the Border Patrol’s Rio Grande sector. This is a 226 percent increase from the same time period in 2004.”

In March 2007, *The Washington Times* reported that violence along the U.S.-Mexico border has increased in what it reported was “an unprecedented surge.” Mexican gangs operating along the border are reportedly arming themselves with assault rifles, grenades and grenade launchers, handguns and assault vests in order to protect their drugs and human smuggling operations.

T. J. Bonner, president of the National Border Patrol Council, told the media that rival gangs in Mexico are battling to control smuggling routes into this country and that it has spilled over into some U.S. communities. He said the gangs are “far more inclined to utilize violence as a means of achieving their goals of smuggling contraband and people.”

The American Legion strongly supports the enforcement of immigration laws by law enforcement agencies at all levels (Res 23, National Executive Committee Oct 2010, “Immigration Reform to Enhance National Security”). Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) was made law in 1996 as a result of the Illegal Immigrant Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. Section 287(g) authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to enter into agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies, permitting designated officers to perform immigration law enforcement functions. Under 287(g), ICE provides state and local law enforcement with the training and subsequent authorization to identify, process, and, when appropriate, detain immigration offenders they encounter during their regular, daily law-enforcement activity.

Education

The Center for Immigration Studies [CIS] estimated that in 2007 there were 1.5 million school-age [5 to 17] illegal aliens in the country. There were also 1.8 million U.S.-born school-age children of illegal aliens in the country. The CIS report points out that because per-student expenditures in the United States are about \$10,000 a year, the costs of educating illegal alien children is roughly \$15 billion annually. If the U.S.-born children are also counted, the costs likely exceed \$30 billion each year.⁹

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Plyler v. Doe* in 1982 that illegal alien students are entitled to enroll in U.S. public schools at taxpayer expense. The ruling was made immediately prior to the 1986 amnesty and it was believed at the time that the illegal alien students would be amnestied as a result of that program. Also, the number of these students was small enough at that time that it would not create a significant hardship on the United States taxpayers.

The Court noted in the decision that the “Congress could reverse the decision if the illegal alien students prove to be a financial hardship to the taxpayers and if the students who are legally residing in the United States begin to have their own education negatively impacted by the presence of the illegal alien students. Both of these conditions apply today...”¹⁰

The impact of illegal immigration on education extends beyond the secondary school level. Several states, including California, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and New York, have passed laws granting in-state tuition rates for illegal aliens, an action in direct defiance of federal laws. Title 8, Chapter 14, Sec. 1623 states: “An alien who is not lawfully present in the United States shall not be eligible on the basis of residence within a State ... for any postsecondary education benefit unless a citizen or national of the United States is eligible for such a benefit.”

The Colorado Alliance for Immigration Reform [CAIR] describes in-state tuition for illegals as “an amnesty disguised as an educational initiative.” The American Legion agrees.

Employment and Wages

Proponents of open borders and guest worker amnesty programs say illegal immigrants take jobs that Americans won't do. Such statements are demeaning to the general population of this country and especially demeaning to immigrants who enter this country legally, stereotyping them as a lower class of people. What proponents of open borders fail to add is that they take the jobs that Americans can no longer afford to do because of illegal immigration.

The numbers tell the story. As employers exploit cheap labor to increase profits, illegals cost Americans jobs. That, combined with the increase of illegal immigrants living below the poverty line, shrinks the U.S. middle class and weakens our economic security.

American Legion Resolution 302, 92nd National Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, “Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration” urged the federal government to hold accountable employers who knowingly hire illegal workers, especially those aliens showing suspected fraudulent documents, thus suggesting the possibility that identity theft may have occurred. It also put The American Legion on record as adamantly opposed to any legislative bill that grants amnesty or forgiveness to the employers of illegal aliens.

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S PROPOSAL FOR U.S. IMMIGRATION REFORM

STEP ONE: SECURE THE BORDER POINTS OF ENTRY

There can be no effective immigration reform without first securing the borders and the coastline boundaries to this country. When the United States shows it has control of its borders, then and only then should Congress consider guest worker or temporary worker initiatives.

Securing the borders and coastlines will require additional frontline Border Patrol agents, the newest surveillance technology, fences or barriers in some locations, support from U.S. military units and a commitment of cooperation from federal, state and local governments. A plan, including legislation for implementation, will not work if there is no funding or enforcement. That was a painful lesson learned from the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) amnesty when legalization occurred without securing the borders. The result was a stampede of illegals across our borders to take advantage of our government's benevolence.

U.S. Border Patrol agents during a five-month period in 2005 and 2006 detained 46,058 non-Mexican migrants along the U.S.-Mexico border, up 12 percent from the 40,953 caught during the same period the previous year.

According to a Department of Homeland Security Report published in 2010¹¹, after Mexico the next leading source countries for unauthorized immigrants in the United States in 2009 included El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and the Philippines. Between 2000 and 2009, the unauthorized immigrant population from El Salvador increased 25%; Guatemala 65%; Honduras 95%; and Philippines 33%.

The American Legion proposes to Congress that it take the following actions to secure the borders:

- Hire and train a sufficient number of U.S. Border Patrol agents to meet assigned objectives. It is The American Legion position that employment preference be afforded former members of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Acquire and utilize the latest technology to monitor border activity and search cargo containers, both on the borders and through our nation's seaports.
- Employ U.S. military resources along the borders, whereby units can

train in a real world scenario, in support of the U.S. Border Patrol and local law enforcement agencies. Department of Defense surveillance equipment should be authorized for use in border security operations.

- Construct physical barriers in certain locales along the borders to impede easy access to the U.S. It may not be feasible to build a physical barrier the entire length of the southern border with Mexico, but barriers are recommended for certain high traffic areas of the border country.
- Authorize and encourage law enforcement agencies at all levels to cooperate by entering and sharing database information on individuals who are thought to be a threat to our nation's security. Additionally, such agencies should be further authorized and encouraged to arrest and detain individuals, including illegal aliens, who are suspected of violating the immigration laws of the United States.

Step No. 1 is to secure border points of entry into the United States.

Source: American Legion Res. 23, "Immigration Reform to Enhance National Security," National Executive Committee Oct 2010.

STEP TWO: ELIMINATE THE JOBS MAGNET AND SOCIAL SERVICES BENEFITS FOR ILLEGALS

The second step in immigration reform is the elimination or reduction of employment opportunities in this country for illegal immigrants. If the number of available jobs were reduced, there would be less incentive for illegals to remain in this country. There are native workers available to work in jobs currently being held by the illegal workforce, if they were given a decent wage.

The American Legion supports mandatory eligibility verification of all employees. It calls upon the federal government to require the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration to develop a system providing electronic verification of work eligibility and an annual re-verification of aliens.

Employer sanctions put into place following the 1986 amnesty programs were not enforced, a principal reason for the current immigration crisis. The American Legion supports enforcement of immigrant hiring laws and advocates significant civil penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal workers. The law is clear on the subject.

In simple language, it is unlawful to hire, recruit or refer an alien knowing the alien is not authorized to work in the United States. It is also unlawful

to continue to employ an alien if it is known by the employer that the alien is not authorized to work.

It is also illegal for nonprofit or religious organizations to knowingly assist an employer to violate employment sanctions, regardless of any claims that “their convictions” require them to assist aliens. Harboring or aiding illegal aliens is not protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The American Legion has long held the position that all legal aliens should be required to carry U.S. government issued identification documents that are made as secure as technology allows and that are verifiable by any employer or benefit agency through an easy-to-access central database. Other positions include restricting the eligibility of illegal aliens for certain forms of publicly funded assistance and educational benefits.

Step No. 2 is to eliminate the jobs magnet and to cease awarding illegal aliens taxpayer sponsored social services benefits.

Source: American Legion Res. 302, “Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration,” 2010 National Convention.

STEP THREE: NO AMNESTY

The American Legion is opposed to any policy that would give illegal immigrants legal permission to remain in the United States, whether such a policy is referred to as “legalization,” “regularization,” “a guest worker program,” “earned status adjustment,” or “earned access.”

The United States for over 200 years only granted amnesty in individual cases and did not give a blanket amnesty to large numbers of aliens until 1986. That was the year Congress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) that legalized all illegal aliens who met certain criteria, resulting in 2.8 million illegal aliens being admitted as legal immigrants. It was supposed to be a “one time only” amnesty but six more followed:

1. Section 245(i) The Amnesty of 1994 – A temporary rolling amnesty for 578,000 illegal aliens.
2. Section 245(i) The Extension Amnesty of 1997 – An extension of the rolling amnesty created in 1994.
3. Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) Amnesty of 1997 – An amnesty for close to one million

illegal aliens from Central America.

4. Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act Amnesty (HRIFA) of 1998 -- An amnesty for 125,000 illegal aliens from Haiti.
5. Late Amnesty of 2000 – An amnesty for illegal aliens who claim they should have been amnestied under the 1986 IRCA amnesty, an estimated 400,000 illegal aliens.
6. Life Amnesty of 2000 – A reinstatement of the rolling Section 245(i) amnesty that legalized an estimated 900,000 illegal aliens.

The total net cost of the 1986 IRCA amnesty was more than \$78 billion in the 10 years following the amnesty, according to a study released by the Center for Immigration Studies. Today, more amnesty programs are being considered, even though it has been proved that they do not work.

Vernon Briggs, a Cornell University labor and economics professor stated: “The toleration of illegal immigration undermines all of our labor; it rips at the social fabric. It’s a race to the bottom. The one who plays by the rules is penalized ... a guest worker program guarantees wages will never go up and there is no way American citizens can compete with guest workers.”

The American Legion is not opposed to the legal temporary workers programs when administered with established numerical limits so as to prevent labor market distortions. Application for such programs must originate from the worker’s home country and only after a criminal background check has been conducted.

Step No. 3 is no amnesty for illegal aliens.

Sources: American Legion Res. 302, “Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration,” 2010 National Convention; American Legion Res. 23, “Immigration Reform to Enhance National Security,” National Executive Committee Oct 2010.

STEP FOUR: REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ILLEGALS IN THE UNITED STATES

Ten million to 20 million individuals are currently in this country illegally. No one knows for sure the exact number, but it is safe to say that the majority of these individuals are both welcomed and scorned by the country’s legal population. These illegals live on the fringe of our society on one hand adding strength to some segments of our economy, while on the other hand drawing from our public assistance pool at the expense of American workers.

No one can dispute the need to reduce and control the illegal population in the United States. Some wish to deal with the problem by simply granting amnesty and providing an avenue toward citizenship. Others seek to address the problem by reducing the number of illegals in this country through the enforcement of existing and new immigration laws: included in this group is The American Legion.

The American Legion recognizes that mass deportation of all illegals is not a realistic option. Deportation of select groups is an option and one that should be used. The continuing threat of deportation and possible incarceration would serve as a deterrent to many who may be considering entering the United States illegally.

The American Legion endorses the plan to reduce the illegal population as outlined in a paper titled “Attrition Through Enforcement – A Cost-Effective Strategy to Shrink the Illegal Population” that was written by Jessica M. Vaughan, a Senior Policy Analyst at the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS). The plan calls for a strategy of attrition through enforcement of new and existing laws in combination with increased border security efforts. The American Legion reiterated its support for Vaughan’s plan as part of its strategy for reform of U.S. immigration policy when delegates to the Legion’s 2010 National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, passed Resolution 302, “Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration.”

The resolution calls upon The American Legion to work with CIS to obtain congressional approval and national acceptance of a plan that includes the following objectives:

- Mandatory workplace verification of immigration status
- Measures to curb misuse of Social Security numbers and IRS identification numbers
- Cooperation between federal, state and local law enforcement officials
- Increased screening of foreign visitors
- Increased noncriminal removals through increased interior enforcement
- Discourage illegal settlement by adopting additional state and local legislation

Included in the CIS plan were the following findings, several of which echo previous positions of The American Legion.

- A strategy of attrition through enforcement could reduce the illegal population by as many as 1.5 million illegal aliens each year. Currently, only about 183,000 illegal aliens per year depart without the intervention of immigration officials, according to Department of Homeland Security statistics.
- Voluntary compliance works faster and is cheaper than a borders-only approach to immigration law enforcement. For example, under the controversial National Security Entry Exit Registration System (NSEERS) program launched after September 11, 2001, the Department of Homeland Security removed roughly 1,500 illegally resident Pakistanis; over the same time period, in response to the registration requirements, about 15,000 illegal Pakistani immigrants left the country on their own.
- Requiring employers to verify the status of workers could deny jobs to about three million illegal workers in three years, affecting at least one-third of the illegal population. (American Legion Res. 302, "Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration," 2010 National Convention)
- The Internal Revenue Service knows the name, address, and place of employment of millions of illegal aliens, and issues hundreds of millions of dollars in tax refunds and tax credits to illegal aliens. Changing the laws to provide for information-sharing would help boost immigration law enforcement at minimal cost.
- United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) is a critical tool in curbing illegal immigration. Screening must be expanded to include Mexicans and Canadians, and DHS must move forward to deploy an exit-recording system. These steps should be a prerequisite to adding or expanding any visa program. (American Legion Res. 23, "Immigration Reform to Enhance National Security," National Executive Committee Oct 2010.)
- Less than 10 percent of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigative resources are devoted to fraud, workplace violations, and overstayers.¹²
- Laws enacted by the state governments of Florida and New York to prevent illegal immigrants from obtaining driver's licenses have induced more illegal aliens to leave than have federal enforcement

efforts against certain illegal populations in those states, and have come at virtually no cost to the federal government.

The elimination of the reasons for remaining in the United States could be the most obvious, effective and best long term solution to the illegal population problem in the United States. Actions supported by American Legion resolutions include: 1) Eliminate employment opportunities; 2) Restrict eligibility for publicly funded assistance; 3) Stop awarding financial aid benefits to illegal alien students; 4) Empower law enforcement at all levels to enforce immigration laws; 5) Seek diplomatic solutions through relations with foreign governments; 6) Do not issue driver's licenses to illegal aliens; and 7) Designate English as the official language of the U.S. government and print all documents, including election ballots, in the English language.

Step No. Four is to reduce the illegal population in the United States by a program of attrition through enforcement.

Source: American Legion Res. 302, "Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration," 2010 National Convention.

STEP FIVE: EFFECTIVELY SCREEN AND TRACK ALL FOREIGN VISITORS

Much of the illegal population in the United States entered the country by legal means and then overstayed their visas or other entrance documents. Such was the case of several of the September 11, 2001, terrorists who came into the country via legal means, and then dropped out of the government's sight until they flew airplanes into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and into a Pennsylvania farm field, killing almost 3,000 people.

Historically, it has, for the most part, been those who have exploited weaknesses in this country's legal immigration system that have committed acts of terrorism in the United States. They include several individuals involved in the first World Trade Center attack, conspirators in plots to bomb the New York subway system, and the plot to destroy New York City landmarks.

The American Legion supports comprehensive screening and background checks on all foreign visitors and a means to track their whereabouts and monitor their intentions while physically in the United States. Releasing them in our society, as has often been the case in the past, is not in the best

interest of our national security.

In 2010, delegates to The American Legion's National Convention in Milwaukee, approved Resolution 302 to urge the Congress of the United States to reform the non-immigrant visa program to establish numerical limits in all categories, especially for temporary workers. Non-immigrant visas (NIV) are issued to foreign nationals who come to the United States for a specific period of time for reasons that include study, employment and tourism.

Non-immigrant visas are issued by the State Department. Visitors from 27 countries can enter the U.S. on a "visa waiver," meaning their entry into the country does not require an application. That alone is reason to question the NIV program, especially because of the thousands who annually exceed their authorized time in the United States and remain in country as illegal immigrants.

The Diversity Visa Lottery is a program that should be eliminated, especially at this time when the country is challenged with increasing illegal population and with the threat of terrorism. The program issues 55,000 immigrant visas each year to people who supposedly come from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. A computer randomly selects winners from the list of applicants. Winners are able to file for permanent residency and can bring a spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21.

Citizenship, permanent residency or just admittance into the United States should not be decided by the "luck of the draw."

The Department of State should complete a thorough background check and, prior to issuing a visa, interview each candidate seeking admittance into the United States. It should also be the Department of State's responsibility to track and, if necessary, arrange for the apprehension of visa recipients who perpetrate fraud and/or overstay their visa. It would be the responsibility of the Department of Homeland Security to then initiate removal/deportation processing.

CONCLUSION

The American Legion has long opposed any great influx of immigrants but, instead, has encouraged a path of moderation, embracing a concept that immigration should be regulated so that immigrants could be readily absorbed into the general population. Assimilation was important to both the government and The American Legion in the 1920's and 30's but it lost some of its luster in recent years as America directed its attention to the illegal immigrant population and homeland security issues.

Assimilation into our society by new citizens remains important to the welfare of the United States. The failure of this country to absorb new immigrants into its society divides the nation and promotes racial and cultural bias. Immigration into the United States should be based on a commitment by the United States to treat the new immigrants with respect and provide them with the rights and privileges guaranteed all citizens by rule of law. Nothing more, nothing less. The immigrants must pledge their loyalty and allegiance to the United States and that allegiance must take precedence over and above any ties they may have with their native country.

Candidates for citizenship express that allegiance in a naturalization ceremony when they are asked to take an oath – An Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance. That oath has elements that are important to The American Legion and were outlined in Resolution 313, “Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance,” passed by delegates to the 92nd National Convention of The American Legion in 2010 in Milwaukee. Those elements are:

- Renunciation of all allegiances to foreign states or sovereignties;
- Support for and defense of the U.S. Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;
- Bear ‘true faith and allegiance’ to the United States of America;
- Bear arms, perform noncombatant service, or perform work of national importance on behalf of the United States of America; and
- Take the oath without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

The American Legion believes strongly in maintaining the sanctity of the oath and supports language in the oath that is prescribed by the Congress of the United States for purposes as outlined in the Immigration and Nationality Act. The Legion also calls upon Congress to reject dual allegiance in principle and restrict and narrow its application in practice.

The American Legion is not opposed to legal immigration. There are, however, provisos to that statement. For example, The American Legion –

- Voices longstanding opposition to any great influx of legal immigrants and has called for immigration quotas to be set on a moderate and regulated scale in numbers that enable the immigrants to be readily absorbed into the culture and life stream of the United States (American Legion Res. 48, “Reduce Immigration Levels,” National Executive Committee, May 2003).
- Works with the Hudson Institute to make the intellectual and moral case for a substantively strong and ceremonially rich citizenship naturalization process. The partnership jointly supports the position that candidates for U.S. citizenship possess a level of proficiency with the English language and an understanding of our country’s history and its government (American Legion Res. 45, “Citizenship Naturalization Process,” National Executive Committee, May 2003).
- Believes that a naturalization ceremony should be made mandatory and conducted in a U.S. District Court. The American Legion also believes that all citizenship naturalization ceremonies in the United States should be conducted in the English language (American Legion Res.305, “English Language be Used in Naturalization Ceremonies,” 2010 National Convention).
- Asks Congress to mandate an effective reporting system to track foreign students and that it be aggressively administered. The American Legion supports sanctions against institutions of higher education that fail to cooperate with the federal government in monitoring and tracking foreign students. Similarly, The American Legion encourages the Congress to provide agencies of government with the necessary resources to track the arrival and departure of foreign visitors (American Legion Res. 302, “Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration,” 2010 National Convention).

The American Legion is not specifically opposed to guest worker programs that are intended to fill labor shortages in the United States. Such programs, however, must not reward illegal immigrants with an amnesty or forgiveness for previous unlawful behavior.

There can be no homeland security until the United States takes control of its borders. There can be no fair labor practices with a workforce composed of illegal workers. As a nation of laws, the United States sends a wrong message by forgiving and rewarding those who break our laws by invading

our sovereign nation. We cannot be secure when 10 million to 20 million individuals whom we don't know are in this country illegally.

There is no simple solution to this complex challenge. Contrary to what some of our leaders may believe, we must put our own citizens first. Today, Americans are paying a huge price for our government's benevolence and open door policies. It's reflected in our schools, in our taxes, at the workplace and in our personal and national feeling of security.

Solving the illegal population problem in this country will require strengthening the U.S. societal infrastructure. Incentives should be provided for students to pursue high-tech professions to reduce the outsourcing of American jobs. The United States should pursue diplomatic solutions with foreign countries that encourage illegal entry into the United States. We should seek English language initiatives and promote good citizenship through naturalization classes for legal immigrants.

President Theodore Roosevelt expressed his ideas on immigrants and what it means to be an American in a speech in 1907.

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person becoming in every facet an American and nothing but an American ... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag ... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language ... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

More than one hundred years ago ... and the words of Teddy Roosevelt are still appropriate today. Let us not forget them.

APPENDIX A

AMERICAN LEGION POSITIONS ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

SUBJECT	POSITION
Border Security	<p>Res. 23, "Immigration Reform to Enhance National Security," National Executive Committee Oct 2010</p> <p>"... That the Department of Homeland Security be provided the monies necessary to ensure both the thorough performance of its responsibilities and the security of the borders of the United States."</p> <p>"... Hire and train additional U.S. Border Patrol agents with employment preference afforded former members of the U.S. Armed Forces ..."</p> <p>"... That, as appropriate, military resources be employed to assist in stopping the flow of illegal aliens into this country, and all of the resources of the United States of America be utilized to enforce the security of our country's borders..."</p> <p>"... That The American Legion, urges Congress to adopt an immigration reform policy which emphasizes border security against those individuals attempting to enter this country illegally..."</p>

SUBJECT	POSITION
<p>Interior Enforcement</p>	<p>Res. 22, "Maintaining and Sharing Federal Immigration Databases," National Executive Committee Oct 2005</p> <p>"... That state and local law enforcement agencies be authorized and encouraged to arrest and detain individuals, including illegal aliens, who are suspected of violating the immigration laws of the United States and that policies, whether written or implied, that are contrary to this position, be opposed by The American Legion."</p> <p>Res. 418, "Illegal Immigration Compromises National Security," 2004 National Convention</p> <p>"... That this country's law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal levels be empowered with the authority to apprehend and incarcerate individuals who are in this country illegally."</p> <p>Res. 302, "Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration," 2010 National Convention</p> <p>"... That The American Legion work with CIS to obtain congressional approval and national acceptance of the plan which includes increased noncriminal removals through increased interior enforcement..."</p> <p>Res. 23, "Immigration Reform to Enhance National Security," National Executive Committee Oct 2010</p> <p>"... Grant law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal levels the authority to work together to apprehend and incarcerate, where appropriate, illegal immigrants, especially those determined to have ties to terrorist groups and organizations."</p>

SUBJECT	POSITION
<p>Employer Sanctions and Worksite Enforcement</p>	<p>Res. 302, " Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration," 2010 National Convention</p> <p>"... That The American Legion urge the federal government to hold accountable those employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens, especially those aliens showing suspected fraudulent documents, thus suggesting the possibility that identity theft may have occurred."</p> <p>"... That The American Legion urge Congress and the federal government to promptly deport to their country of origin those illegal aliens convicted of felonies related to the use of fraudulent identity documents, especially those of children, in order to obtain employment in the United States."</p> <p>"... That The American Legion adamantly oppose provisions of any comprehensive immigration reform legislation that grants amnesty or forgiveness to the employers of illegal aliens."</p> <p>"... That The American Legion work with CIS to obtain congressional approval and national acceptance of the plan which includes mandatory workplace verification of immigration status..."</p> <p>"... That The American Legion support strict enforcement of employer sanctions as called for in current employment laws that assess heavy penalties on employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens..."</p>

SUBJECT	POSITION
<p>Amnesty for Illegal Aliens</p>	<p>Res. 302, "Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration," 2010 National Convention</p> <p>"... That The American Legion be unalterably opposed to illegal immigration and oppose legislation that would result in the granting of amnesty and legal residency, in any form or by any name, to illegal immigrants currently in the United States."</p> <p>Res. 23, "Immigration Reform to Enhance National Security," National Executive Committee Oct 2010</p> <p>"... That The American Legion opposes legislation that would result in the granting of amnesty and legal residency, in any form or by any name, to illegal immigrants currently in the United States."</p>
<p>Oppose Granting Benefits to Illegal Aliens</p>	<p>Res. 302, "Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration," 2010 National Convention</p> <p>"... That aliens illegally in the United States should be denied Social Security benefits, unemployment compensation, and other government sponsored public services and public assistance."</p> <p>"... That The American Legion opposes any legislation or executive order that would allow illegal aliens and others who are in this country illegally to receive in-state tuition rates, federal or other government education grants and/or financial assistance to attend a college or university in the United States."</p>

SUBJECT	POSITION
<p>Forms of Identification as they relate to Illegal Aliens</p>	<p>Res. 23, "Immigration Reform to Enhance National Security," National Executive Committee, Oct 2010</p> <p>"... That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States and the state legislatures to pass legislation that would prohibit acceptance of certain foreign-issued forms of identification, to include the Mexican government issued Matricula Consular card, when it is determined said documents lack credibility, authenticity and accuracy of information when used in the application process for federal, state and local government-sponsored public services,"</p> <p>"That The American Legion encourages businesses in the private sector, including financial institutions, to refrain from accepting as valid identification, foreign issued documents that are not determined to be acceptable forms of identification."</p> <p>"That an agency of the federal government, determined by Congress and working in cooperation with other agencies having responsibilities for the administration and enforcement of immigration laws and policies, be tasked with determining the acceptability of forms of identification issued by foreign governments."</p>

SUBJECT	POSITION
<p>Accountability by Public Officials</p>	<p>Res.302, "Strategy to Address Social, Economic and Population Problems Related to Illegal Immigration," 2010 National Convention</p> <p>"... That The American Legion seize every opportunity to request an accountability of our elected officials in implementing and enforcing federal and international laws and treaties to eliminate the large numbers of individuals from foreign countries entering the country illegally."</p> <p>"That all candidates seeking public office and the two major party platforms express publicly to the American people their positions and solutions to this grave danger to our country's stability..."</p>

APPENDIX B

THE AMERICAN LEGION AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION MESSAGE POINTS

Why is The American Legion involved with the illegal immigration issue?

Many of our members are concerned that our country is self-destructing because of the perceived ambivalence of our federal government on the issue. From an organization standpoint, the Legion has called for quotas on legal immigration dating back to the very beginning of our organization. Obviously, with this mind-set it makes no sense to limit legal immigration, but leave the back door open for individuals to enter this country illegally.

But, aren't you a veterans organization? What's that got to do with illegal immigration?

American Legion members have served in the U.S. Armed Forces around the world so that Americans can be safe at home. The sacrifices they have made give them a perspective on national security issues that many Americans do not have. They have seen Third World countries. They have seen poverty, political instability, disease and war. Now, they see these dangers on our back doorstep in our porous borders and our country's lack of enforcement of immigration laws.

What's wrong with accepting illegal immigrants? Aren't they only taking jobs that Americans won't do?

The United States is a country of laws that establish our standards of behavior. These individuals broke our immigration laws and are trespassing on our sovereign soil. They are mostly unskilled workers with little formal education. By taking low paying jobs, they effectively hold down wages of low skilled and middle class Americans. If they were not here, our economy would adjust and more Americans would be working.

Why is The American Legion opposed to making the illegals legal? Won't that solve the problem?

Rewarding criminal behavior is not in the best interest of this country. It is amnesty plain and simple, and The American Legion is adamantly opposed to blanket policies of forgiveness that would pardon millions who

have entered the United States illegally. Granting amnesty to illegals will ultimately result in granting admittance into this country to the amnestied individual's family members. Our country cannot absorb this number of low skilled immigrants without feeling the effects in the drain on our public services, education, health care and personal security.

Why not grant a one-time amnesty to the illegal population currently in the United States?

History has proved that amnesty programs do not work. The United States, for more than 200 years, only granted amnesty in individual cases and did not give a blanket amnesty to large numbers until 1986 when it passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) that legalized 2.8 million people. It was supposed to be a one-time only amnesty, but six more followed. The total cost of the 1986 IRCA amnesty was more than \$78 billion in the ten years following the amnesty. Amnesty programs promote more illegal immigration.

Does The American Legion have a solution to the illegal immigration issue?

Yes, but no effective immigration reform can occur without first securing our borders. Once that is done, the second step would be to eliminate the jobs magnet. Without going into specifics, the Legion's plan calls for removing the incentives for the individual to remain in this country. That could include workplace verification of immigration status, cooperation between federal, state and local law enforcement, increased screening of foreign visitors, non-criminal removals through increased interior enforcement and by discouraging illegal settlement by adopting additional state and local legislation.

Is The American Legion in favor of building a physical barrier along our southern border?

The American Legion does urge Congress to construct physical barriers, as appropriate, in order to "secure the borders and other points of entry into the United States" against those individuals attempting to enter illegally. Legion positions also state that "all of the resources of the United States of America should be utilized to enforce the security of our country's borders."

Should military resources be used to secure our borders?

The U.S. Border Patrol is tasked with that responsibility, but they are often understaffed and lack the firepower when confronted with the drug gangs and smugglers operating along our southern border. The American Legion

has held the position for several years that, where appropriate, military resources should be employed to assist in stopping the flow of illegal aliens into this country. Our troops are being called upon to guard the borders of other countries, it seems only appropriate that they be available for our own border security.

Does The American Legion support citizen watch groups like the Minutemen?

As an organization, it does not. It is the responsibility of our government to protect us from invasion. If the government fails to do that, then it must be held accountable. That can be done at the ballot box. Many of our members are sympathetic to groups like the Minutemen who have brought attention to the issue of illegal immigration. But it is not our policy – as an organization -- to endorse other organizations.

Who should enforce our immigration laws? The Feds? State or local law enforcement?

The American Legion believes it should be all three. Its position is "... that this country's law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal levels be empowered with the authority to apprehend and incarcerate individuals who are in this country illegally." If this was the case several years ago, there may have been no September 11, 2001, attack as several of the terrorists had been stopped by local authorities while in this country illegally for minor traffic violations prior to the attack.

What should be done about those who give aid and sanctuary to individuals in this country illegally?

That is up to our government and not The American Legion. These groups, whether they are driven by humanitarian reasons, economic reasons or for any other reasons are treading on dangerous ground when they provide sanctuary to illegals. It should be the responsibility of our government and, more specifically, our court system to decide how to deal with them.

Has The American Legion always been opposed to immigration?

The American Legion is NOT opposed to legal immigration. It is adamantly opposed to illegal entry and it is opposed to lax enforcement of immigration laws that allow individuals, who may have entered this country legally but overstayed their visa, to remain in this country. The American Legion has long opposed any great influx of immigrants but, rather, has encouraged a path of moderation, embracing a concept that immigration should

be regulated so that immigrants can be readily absorbed into the general population.

Several states have passed laws authorizing illegal aliens to attend colleges and universities in their state by paying “in-state” tuition rates. What’s The American Legion’s position on this?

The American Legion opposes any legislation or executive order that would allow illegal aliens and others who are in this country illegally to receive in-state tuition rates, government education grants and/or financial assistance to attend a college or university in the United States. Title 8, Chapter 14, Sec. 1623 states: “An alien who is not lawfully present in the United States shall not be eligible on the basis of residence within a State ... for any postsecondary education benefit unless a citizen or national of the United States is eligible for such a benefit.” Unfortunately, some states have chosen to ignore the federal statute.

How does The American Legion plan to change current policy concerning illegal immigration?

American Legion National Convention delegates in August 2008 and again in September 2010 voted to seize every opportunity to request an accountability of our elected officials in implementing and enforcing federal and international laws and treaties to stop the flood of illegal aliens across our borders. The convention delegates also called on all candidates seeking public office and the two major political parties to express publicly to the American people their positions and solutions to the problems of illegal immigration.

APPENDIX C

NINETY-SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION
THE AMERICAN LEGION
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
AUGUST 31, SEPTEMBER 1, 2, 2010

RESOLUTION NO. 302

STRATEGY TO ADDRESS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POPULATION PROBLEMS RELATED TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

COMMITTEE: AMERICANISM

WHEREAS, The American Legion, since its inception in 1919, has expressed concern that legal and illegal immigrants arriving in this country in large numbers would be unable to effectively assimilate into our society unless numerical quotas were established and enforced; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's concern is exacerbated by the estimates by immigration reform groups and reports by news sources and others that as many as 10 to 20 million individuals are in this country illegally; and

WHEREAS, Numerous authoritative studies have shown that mass immigration has harmed the interests of millions of Americans, including veterans, by undercutting wages and working conditions, increasing welfare costs, overburdening local schools, public health care facilities and other vital social institutions; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has urged the Congress of the United States to adopt an immigration policy that will eliminate social, economic and population problems resulting from our country's failure to secure our nation's borders and to enforce its immigration and employment laws; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is opposed to any amnesty or legalization program, policy or directive that would grant illegal immigrants legal permission to remain in the United States, thereby rewarding them for criminal behavior while penalizing those immigrants following lawful immigration channels and increasing the financial burden on law-abiding taxpayers who would ultimately pay for these services; and

WHEREAS, It is universally thought by both proponents and opponents of illegal immigration that immediate deportation by force of all illegal aliens in the United States is not a workable solution to the issue, with estimates for such action totaling perhaps as much as \$215 billion over the next five years according to the Center for Immigration Studies, an independent non-partisan 501(c)(3) research think tank devoted exclusively to research and policy analysis of the impacts of immigration on the United States; and

WHEREAS, A 2006 study by the Center for Immigration Studies, found that as a result of illegal aliens accessing government programs upon being granted amnesty, the government's net fiscal burden would increase an additional \$20.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Immigration Studies, has proposed an alternative to mass deportation or mass legalization of illegals, seeking instead the attrition of the illegal population and efforts to encourage illegal aliens to leave the U.S. of their own accord; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Immigration Studies plan, which uses the government's own cost estimates, could cut the illegal population by nearly half in five years with an additional investment of less than \$2 billion, or \$400 million per year; and

WHEREAS, The provisions of the Center for Immigration Studies plan have been reviewed by the National Americanism Commission and are determined to be compatible with the provisions of American Legion resolutions on the subject of illegal immigration; and

WHEREAS, Few candidates for public office or their political parties address the issue of illegal immigration or express a willingness to take a position – either pro or con – as to their stand on illegal immigration in the United States because of the likelihood of alienating a significant number of voters in their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Americans are becoming increasingly frustrated by what they see as the federal government's reluctance and/or failure to stop this large influx of illegals and the actions by some states to provide taxpayer funded services and other benefits to illegal aliens thus providing additional incentives for more people to enter this country illegally; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has passed numerous resolutions calling for the enforcement and/or reform of the government's immigra-

tion laws, policies and procedures and now seeks to combine many of the positions regarding social, economic and population problems into a single resolution concisely stating The American Legion's positions and strategy to resolve this complex matter; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 31, September 1, 2, 2010, That The American Legion be unalterably opposed to illegal immigration and oppose legislation that would result in the granting of amnesty and legal residency, in any form or by any name, to illegal immigrants currently in the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion, on behalf of all Americans and future generations of Americans, urge the Congress and the federal government to authorize and fund the following strategy in addressing the issue of illegal aliens in the United States:

1. Eliminate the jobs magnet and social services benefits:
 - (a) Mandate verification of employment eligibility,
 - (b) Enforce employer sanctions as called for in current employment laws and assess heavy penalties on employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens,
 - (c) Make illegal residents ineligible for Social Security benefits, unemployment compensation, and other government-sponsored public services and public assistance,
 - (d) Eliminate governmental financial aid for illegal alien students;
2. Enforce existing laws and pass new laws to reduce U.S. illegal population:
 - (a) Reject amnesty or "legalization" programs for illegal aliens,
 - (b) Prohibit eligibility to services offered by financial institutions in the United States,
 - (c) Issue no drivers licenses to illegal aliens,
 - (d) Designate English as the official language of the U.S. government and print all documents, including election ballots, in the English language only,
 - (e) Work with state and local governments to discourage illegal settlement;

3. Revise legal immigration procedures; screen and track foreign visitors legally entering the U.S.:

- (a) Eliminate the Visa Lottery Program,
- (b) Restrict the number of countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program,
- (c) Establish numerical limits for all immigration categories of temporary workers to help prevent labor market distortions and create new visa categories or expand the H-2A and H-2B Visa Categories for temporary agricultural and temporary and seasonal workers as necessary to replace illegal workers eliminated from employment opportunities in the U.S.,
- (d) Create and enforce a reporting system to track the whereabouts of foreign visitors to include students at academic institutions, members of a country's diplomatic corps, aircraft and vessel crews, foreign press representatives, exchange visitors, H-1B Workers, L-1 Intracompany Transferees and those individuals categorized as humanitarian entrants; and

4. Hold accountable those employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens, especially those aliens showing suspected fraudulent documents, thus suggesting the possibility that identify theft may have occurred; and

5. Promptly deport to their country of origin those illegal aliens convicted of felonies relating to the use of fraudulent identify documents, especially those of children, in order to obtain employment in the United States; and

6. Assist victims of identify theft perpetuated by illegal aliens by providing the victims with assistance in reclaiming their identity while erasing derogatory information, such as criminal convictions resulting from the misuse of the victim's identity records; and,

7. Make institutions of higher education who fail to cooperate with the federal government in monitoring and tracking foreign students ineligible to receive federal student loan monies benefiting foreign students, and, be it further,

RESOLVED, That The American Legion adamantly oppose provisions of any comprehensive immigration reform legislation that grants amnesty or forgiveness to the employers of illegal aliens; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion opposes any legislation or execu-

tive order that would allow illegal aliens and others who are in this country illegally to receive in-state tuition rates, federal or other government education grants and or financial assistance to attend a college or university in the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion endorses the report by the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) titled “Attrition Through Enforcement – A Cost-Effective Strategy to Shrink the Illegal Population” and adopts the action as proposed in the report as a portion of its strategy for reform of the U.S. immigration policy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion work with CIS to obtain Congressional approval and national acceptance of the plan which includes the following:

- Mandatory workplace verification of immigration status
- Measures to curb misuse of Social Security numbers and IRS identification numbers
- Cooperation between federal, state and local law enforcement officials
- Increased screening of foreign visitors
- Increase non-criminal removals through increased interior enforcement
- Discourage illegal settlement by adopting additional state and local legislation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages the United States government to hold respective agency heads accountable in guaranteeing the desired communications and exchanges of technical information concerning the various aspects of the illegal alien issue, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seize every opportunity to request an accountability of our elected officials in implementing and enforcing federal and international laws and treaties to eliminate the large numbers of individuals from foreign countries entering the United States illegally and that all candidates for public office and the Democratic and Republican National Committees express publicly to the American people their positions and solutions to this grave danger to our country’s stability; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue an information cam-

paign to alert its members, federal and state elected officials, and the general public of the massive influx into the country of illegal immigrants, the consequences of mass immigration and how it will affect the standards of living in these United States; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion use all possible means to bring forth a solution to the challenges faced by the United States because of illegal immigration.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 13-14, 2010

RESOLUTION NO. 23

IMMIGRATION REFORM TO ENHANCE NATIONAL SECURITY

ORIGIN: NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

SUBMITTED BY: NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, The American Legion respects the authority of the United States Government to apply the existing rules and regulations which govern immigration to maintain law and order within the United States; and

WHEREAS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) estimates that there are 11.5 million illegal immigrants who currently reside within the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, In 2006 the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Audits stated that each year more than one million aliens attempt to illegally enter the United States without proper documentation or enter legally and violate the provisions of their visa; and

WHEREAS, The United States currently has the systems and the technology in place to track foreign visitors and illegal aliens for the duration of their tenure in the United States; and

WHEREAS, A need exists for a broad exchange of intelligence and related action between regulatory agencies which govern immigration policy,

social services, and the Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, The terrorist attacks of September 11th were not isolated events, but is a continuation of a long series of unprovoked terrorist attacks aimed at destroying American lives, and the very basic core values of freedom, democracy and respect for human life; and

WHEREAS, Aggressively tracking foreign visitors is a deterrent to terrorist activities and failing to effectively utilize the available systems and technology to track illegal aliens threatens the security and future of the U.S.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 13-14, 2010, That The American Legion urges Congress to adopt an immigration reform policy which emphasizes border security against those individuals attempting to enter this country illegally and internal tracking of all resident aliens and illegal immigrants; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion opposes legislation that would result in the granting of amnesty and legal residency, in any form or by any name, to illegal immigrants currently in the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Homeland Security be provided the monies necessary to ensure both the thorough performance of its responsibilities and the security of the borders of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion opposes any change to "Title V of the Immigration and Nationality Act" (8 U.S.C. 1531-1537) that would require revealing the source(s) of secret evidence used in the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, administrative deportation hearings; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages the federal government to provide the needed resources to enforcement agencies tasked with curtailing illegal immigration in this country; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to mandate that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)

continue and be aggressively administered by the responsible agency of the federal government; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to provide agencies of the federal government with the necessary resources to track the arrival and departure of foreign visitors to the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Department of State be required to enforce the completion of a thorough background check and also interview each candidate for a U.S. visa prior to issuing said visa; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Department of State be responsible for tracking and arresting those visa recipients who perpetrate fraud and/or are visa overstays and that they be turned over to the Department of Homeland Security for removal/deportation processing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States and the state legislatures to pass legislation that would prohibit acceptance of certain foreign-issued forms of identification, to include the Mexican government-issued "Matricula Consular" card, when it is determined said documents lack credibility, authenticity and accuracy of information when used in the application process for federal, state and local government-sponsored public services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages businesses in the private sector, including financial institutions, to refrain from accepting as valid identification, foreign issued documents that are not determined to be acceptable forms of identification; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an agency of the federal government, determined by Congress and working in cooperation with other agencies having responsibilities for the administration and enforcement of immigration laws and policies, be tasked with determining the acceptability of forms of identification issued by foreign governments; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion, on behalf of all Americans and future generations of Americans, urge the Congress and the federal government to authorize and fund the following strategy in addressing the issue of illegal aliens in the United States:

Secure the borders and other points of entry in the United States:

- (a) Construct physical barriers, as appropriate,
- (b) Acquire and utilize latest technology to monitor border activity,
- (c) Employ and train a sufficient number of U.S. Border Patrol Agents to effectively patrol border regions with employment preference given to former members of the U.S. Armed Forces,
- (d) Utilize National Guard troops to assist in providing border security, only if authorized to use deadly force,
- (e) Insure all vessels and their cargo arriving at our seaports are thoroughly searched;

Enforce existing laws and pass new laws to reduce U.S. illegal population:

- (a) Reject amnesty programs for illegal aliens,
- (b) Enforce immigration laws and promote cooperation between federal, state and local law enforcement officials, with emphasis on interior enforcement,
- (c) Establish parameters for non-criminal deportations; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States, state governments, the U.S. Justice Department and the Department of Homeland Security to take necessary action to stop the massive flow of illegal immigration into this country by means that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Hire and train additional U.S. Border Patrol agents with employment preference afforded former members of the United States Armed Forces; and
2. Encourage the United States Congress to require the Department of Homeland Security to work with state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce immigration laws in this country; and
3. Require that all legal aliens carry U.S. Government issued identification documents that are made as secure as technology allows and that are verifiable by any employer or benefit agency through an easy-to-access central database; and
4. Petition the President of the United States and the Congress to enact measures to effectively halt the smuggling of illegal immigrants into this country; and

5. Grant law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal levels the authority to work together to apprehend and incarcerate, where appropriate, illegal immigrants, especially those determined to have ties to terrorist groups and organizations; and

6. That, as appropriate, military resources be employed to assist in stopping the flow of illegal aliens into this country, and all of the resources of the United States of America be utilized to enforce the security of our country's borders; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion use all possible means to bring forth a solution to the challenges faced by the United States because of illegal immigration.

SOURCES

- 1 The Law Against Hiring or Harboring Illegal Aliens, www.fairus.org/site/PageServer?pagename=iic_immigrationissuecentersbcdd
- 2 The Costs of Illegal Immigration to Californians: Executive Summary www.fairus.org/site/PageServer?pagename=iic_immigrationissuecentersffec
- 3 “The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on the United States Taxpayer” http://www.fairus.org/site/DocServer/USCostStudy_2010.pdf?docID=4921
- 4 Nonimmigrant Overstays: Brief Synthesis of the Issue <http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/library/P735.pdf>
- 5 Modes of Entry for the Unauthorized Migrant Population <http://pewhispanic.org/files/factsheets/19.pdf>
- 6 ICE unveils sweeping new plan to target criminal aliens in jails nationwide
Initiative aims to identify and remove criminal aliens from all U.S. jails and prisons <http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/0804/080414washington.htm>
- 7 “Iraqi Accused of Smuggling Hundreds in Mideast to U.S.,” The New York Times, October 26, 2001
- 8 The Associated Press, July 5, 2005: “Smuggler pipelines channel illegal immigrants into U.S. from nations with terror ties”; Pauline Arrillaga and Olga Rodriguez
- 9 Immigrants in the United States, 2007: A profile of America’s Foreign-Born Population, by Steve A. Camarota, November 2007; Center for Immigration Studies
- 10 Poor education and school overcrowding - consequences of mass immigration, www.cairco.org/edu/education.html
- 11 Estimates of the unauthorized immigrant population residing in the United States: January 2009, www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/lpr_pe_2009.pdf
- 12 Attrition Through Enforcement, www.cis.org/articles/2006/back406.html

11/14/2021

Webmaster Report

The Web site address is LegionDist22.com.

The Facebook site is LegionDistrict22Texas

Video conferencing tutorial links are on the home page.

The site contains directories of Officers, Posts and District Committee Chairs. District committee chairs. When was the last time you contacted your counter parts at the post? When was the last time you provide training to the post? You have a district responsibility. If you are a committee chair, that means you are in charge of that program for the district, not just your post. Post information, Share post activities.

The Web Calendar now contains every post meeting date and location for posts that have regularly scheduled meetings.

If you have had elections, please check the District Web Site Post directory for correctness. If changes are required, please forward them to: Webmaster@LegionDist22.com

Any ideas on how to improve the web site usage will be welcome input.



Harry Woodstrom

Webmaster, 22nd District, Department of Texas

Hector Hernandez- POW/ MIA Committee
131 Wellington St.
Houston, TX 77076-3636
H2HouTXUSA@gmail.com
(832) 212-0775

Report from National Website:

- Report on PFC John Sitarz of Weirton, WV
Report found on the official DPAA.MIL
- Veteran's Day through a photographer's lens

Report on Houston's Veteran's Day Parade

The Veteran's Day Parade was held on November 11th, 2021 in Downtown Houston that included a parade down Memorial Drive. Many of our local Veterans Organizations participated.

Report from Greater Houston National Cemetery Council

- The Council participated in this year's parade. The Council plans to participate in Wreaths across America in December 2021. The Council is also planning on participating in Vietnam Memorial Anniversary and the Annual Memorial Day Observation.

**The American Legion
Earl Graham Post No. 159
Bryan, Texas**

**RESOLUTION OF ENDORSEMENT FOR THOMAS MARTY
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
VICE COMMANDER FOR 2022-2023**

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Texas will elect, at its 2022 convention, a Vice Commander for 2022 – 2023; and,

WHEREAS, The Department of Texas Vice Commander must be a dedicated Legionnaire with leadership and administrative skills; and,

WHEREAS, Earl Graham Post No. 159 in Bryan, Texas has such a Legionnaire in Tom Marty; and,


WHEREAS, Legionnaire Marty is a Paid Up for Life Member of the American Legion having served on active duty with the United States Air Force from September 1981 to July 1987 rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant and being designated an investigator with the United State Air Force Security Police; and,

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Marty has served as the Post Adjutant the years of 2014 thru 2018, where he was named Adjutant of the year for 2016-2017, Post Commander 2018 to 2021, 6th District Vice Commander 2020-2022, as well as member of the National Legion Security Committee, the Department of Texas Training Committee, 6th District Legislative Chairman, and Department Instructor for Texas Legion College and Department District/Division Commanders School; and,

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Marty is of the highest moral character and has earned the respect of all those with whom he has worked; now, therefore, be it finally,

RESOLVED, By Earl Graham Post No. 159, the American Legion, Department of Texas in regular meeting assembled in Bryan, Texas on July 1st, 2021, That we unanimously endorse Tom Marty for the high office of Vice Commander Department of Texas for 2022-2023.

Attested this 1st day of July 2021


Bret Humphrey, 1st Vice Commander


Dale Hutchcraft, Adjutant



**The American Legion
Hopkins County Post 66
P.O. Box 2266
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483**

Resolution for Department Commander 2022-23

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; who continues to seek qualified and dedicated leaders to work for the betterment of veterans and the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Andrew E. Lowen served in the United States Army, the Texas Army National Guard, and the United States Army Reserves from 1971 through 2000 and was honorably discharged; and


WHEREAS, Andrew E. Lowen has been a member of the American Legion for over 25 years, serving the American Legion as Department Asst-Asst Sgt-at-Arms, 1st Division Commander, 1st Division Asst. Sgt-at-Arms, 1st Division PR & Publications Commission, 1st Division and 1st District National Security member, 4th District Asst. Sgt-at-Arms, 1st Division and 1st District ALR Liaison, 4th District South Zone Commander, 1st District Commander, Post 66 Commander, Post 66 Adjutant, Post 66 Finance Officer, Post 66 hub-master, Post 17/66/517 Judge Advocate, Post 17/517 Sgt-at-Arms, Post 17/517 Executive Committee, Post 66 Historian, and has served on various Post committees. He is a graduate of the American Legion Basic Course, the American Legion Extension Institute Course and the Department of Texas Leadership Course, an ALR member and a SAL member; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership Post 66 has grown 6 times in the last 7 years, the 1st District finished 3rd in the nation for membership and the Division was the top Division last year; and

WHEREAS, Andrew E. Lowen, is a Paid up for Life Member of Hopkins County Post 66, has distinguished himself by outstanding service, exemplary performance and leadership at Post, District, Division, Department levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Hopkins County Post 66, in regular meeting in Sulphur Springs, Texas, on the 19th of January 2021, that it does vote and hereby proudly endorses and encourages the candidacy of Andrew E. Lowen for the High Office of Department Commander of the American Legion Department of Texas, during the year of 2022-2023,

ATTEST:


Vice Commander

RESUME FOR
ANDREW E LOWEN
FOR HIGH OFFICE OF DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

COMRADES

Many of you know me and I that I have announced that I am running for the high office of Department Commander for the Department of Texas for the 2021-2022 Legion year. I am asking for your support. The following is a brief bio and what I would bring to the membership of the Department of Texas. My eligible for membership comes with my service in the US Army, the Texas Army National Guard and the Army Reserves. Where I rose to the rank of Sergeant Major. My assignments had me in the infantry, PSYOPS, Intel and Counter-Intel and Ordinance. These various assignments involved continual leadership and management training at all levels of my advancement.

In The American Legion I have had the honor of serving in various leadership positions. They include: Post Commander in two different Post in two different Districts, 1st District Commander for 2 tours, where with a team effort our District was number 1 in the State and number 3 in the country (for a District of our size) on membership. Then the next year I was again honored by being elected the 1st Division Command and with a Team effort we were the Number 1 Division in the Department in membership. My current Post 66 had seen a growth in membership every year with new highs for the past several years. Current I am the 1st District and 1st Division Chaplain, and serve on various Legion committees.

I am a member of the SAL from my father's service in the Army Air Corps and later the USAF. And I am a member of the ALR at Post 243. My mother served in the RAF, but doesn't quite qualify me to the Aux. I am a retired police officer from two different agencies and have served as a Chief of Police and the Director of Public Safety (where I was the Fire and Police Chief). I am currently reserving for a small town in Hunt County north of Greenville. I am a current rated Police instructor and range officer and a hold a Master Police Officer rating.

That do I bring to the table for the Department of Texas?

I believe in leading from the front with a consensus from the DEC. I look at the DEC as the operations section (like the S3) of a unit giving guidance on the direction of the Department. Department Headquarters in Austin is similar to the Admin and supply (S-1 and S-4). The PDC's and Bill West are in the intel section (S-2). We all work together and we can make Texas great again – but its team effort. I also, believe in training and bring Texas into the 21st century on how to conduct business. I believe in the Programs that the Legion has and know we need to continue them and work on membership to make the programs better.

I believe in open communications throughout our organization. I would ask any Legionnaire, SAL member, ALR member, Auxiliary member to forward me any ideas, request, or information that would make the Department better than we are today. Our organization must be managed as a TEAM EFFORT and as leaders of The American Legion Department of Texas your job includes Service Before Self. All Legionnaires and leader at Post, District and Department should have their voices heard.

We can make Texas Great Again. I stand for any questions.

Andy Lowen
Candidate for Department Commander

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Texas

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The American Legion School Awards Medal Program

Now that the 2020 – 2021 school year is in session, Legion posts are encouraged to visit local schools to promote the program and its awards.

Youth are often awarded for their scholastic achievements, but The American Legion believes they should also be praised when they demonstrate strong qualities of character and good citizenship. That's why, since 1926, the Legion has recognized such students with its School Award Medal Program.

PURPOSE

To instill character and help perpetuate the ideals of Americanism among youth.

OBJECTIVES

- Places emphasis on the development of the six core qualities of active citizenship; Courage, Patriotism, Honor, Scholarship, Leadership & Service.
- Encourages the development of those ideals in young Americans in order to promote engaged citizenship.
- Offers recognition for those youth deemed most dedicated to the high qualities of citizenship and true Americanism.

WHAT YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH

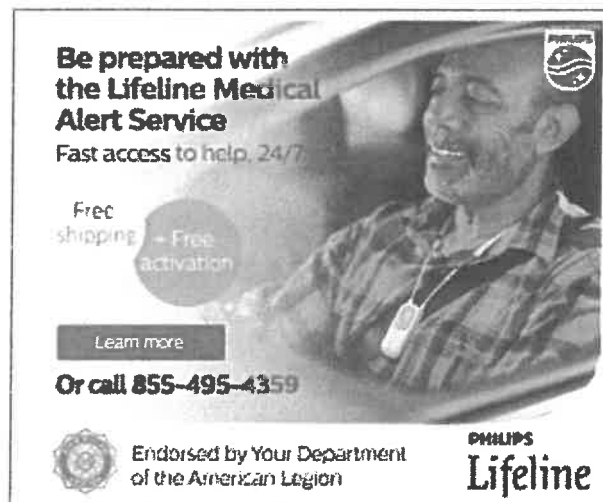
- A vested interest in America's youth

Timothy L. Mitchell

- Emphasis on civics, history and humanities
- Help develop active citizens of local students
- Develop visibility in your community and its schools

You will find complete details on forming and operating an American Legion School Award Medal program at this **LINK**.

A promotional brochure is available at this **LINK**.



Be prepared with the Lifeline Medical Alert Service
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[Learn more](#)

Or call 855-495-4359

Endorsed by Your Department of the American Legion

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MEMORIAL



LEARN BY DOING ME

This memo is best utilized by those teachers who oversee programs where your school's male Student Body leaders most often emerge, such as:

** Athletics – may I suggest sending to your school's Athletic Director*

** Arts programs (such as Band and Choir) – may I suggest sending to your Band Director and Choir Director*

** Community Involvement—may I suggest sending to the coordinator of Community Service hours for your students*

** Debate Club – may I suggest sending to the sponsoring teacher(s) of this school organization*

** Student Council -- may I suggest sending to the sponsor teacher(s) of this school organization*

Note: If you are from one of the many schools across our great state that already send young men to our program, we say thanks.....if instead your school is not yet participating and would like to learn more, read on for more information!

For questions about the content/context of the following memo, please contact Justin Faith, Volunteer School Outreach Coordinator for Texas Boys State, at mr.faith@faithinlearning.net.

=====

Nominating Teachers and High School Principals –



LEARN BY DOING

The Texas Boys State program

For a quick overview of the impact of the program, please click on this link for testimonials from both previous delegates and University level educators:

<http://www.texasboysstate.com/what-is-boys-state.php#Testimonials>.

For 75+ years, the one week long Texas Boys State program has used the concept of “Learn by Doing” to teach incoming High School Seniors (class of 2022 for our next session) these main points:

** A new appreciation for patriotism (flag etiquette, service to both our state and our country, and an understanding of the part they are to play in society as they become adults)*

** New and lasting friendships with young men from across the state*

** A better understanding of how to build consensus through civil discourse and debate*

** Knowledge of the two party political system and putting that knowledge into action*

** An eagerness to be a servant leader in their schools and communities (if they do not already possess such a characteristic)*

Each year, over 1,100 rising High School Senior young men are provided an opportunity to develop leadership skills in a fast-paced, energetic program unlike any other that exists in our state! Last year when all other Boys State programs shut down due



LEARN BY DOING

What we are seeking from you

We want your nominations of qualified rising Seniors! We are working with the University of Texas at Austin (where we hold this event) to accommodate up to 1,200 young men, and we are excited to offer your school the chance to send qualified young men to this program! Specific facts/details about the program are available in the attached fact sheet and associated brochure.

The Profile of the “best” Boys State delegate

So you know, the best Boys State representatives possess the following characteristics:

** Strong Academic performance/a “quick study” – this fast-paced program requires these young men to learn quickly and adapt to changing situations, so academic strength is a must*

** Excellent interpersonal skills – gets along well with others; possess a balanced perspective and shows maturity for his age; well mannered and self confident (without being arrogant)*

** Leadership skills – those who thrive at Boys State are those that “lead leaders” in your schools and are seeking to “change” your schools for the better*

** Solid oratorical skills – Excellence in persuasive speaking and confidence in large group settings is helpful*

** A hard worker – someone who will “jump in” and volunteer versus sitting on the sidelines and cheering*



LEARN BY DOING

When your school has agreed to a nominee (or more than one if you feel that would be appropriate), you will then have the nominated delegate(s) follow the attached approach to work with a local/regional American Legion post to apply online as outlined here: <http://www.texasboysstate.com/apply.php>

Conclusion

I believe the link below summarizes nicely the excellent curriculum that exists at Texas Boys State: <http://www.texasboysstate.com/for-administrators.php>. Please take a few moments to peruse both it and all other materials found on our website at <http://www.texasboysstate.com/index.php>.

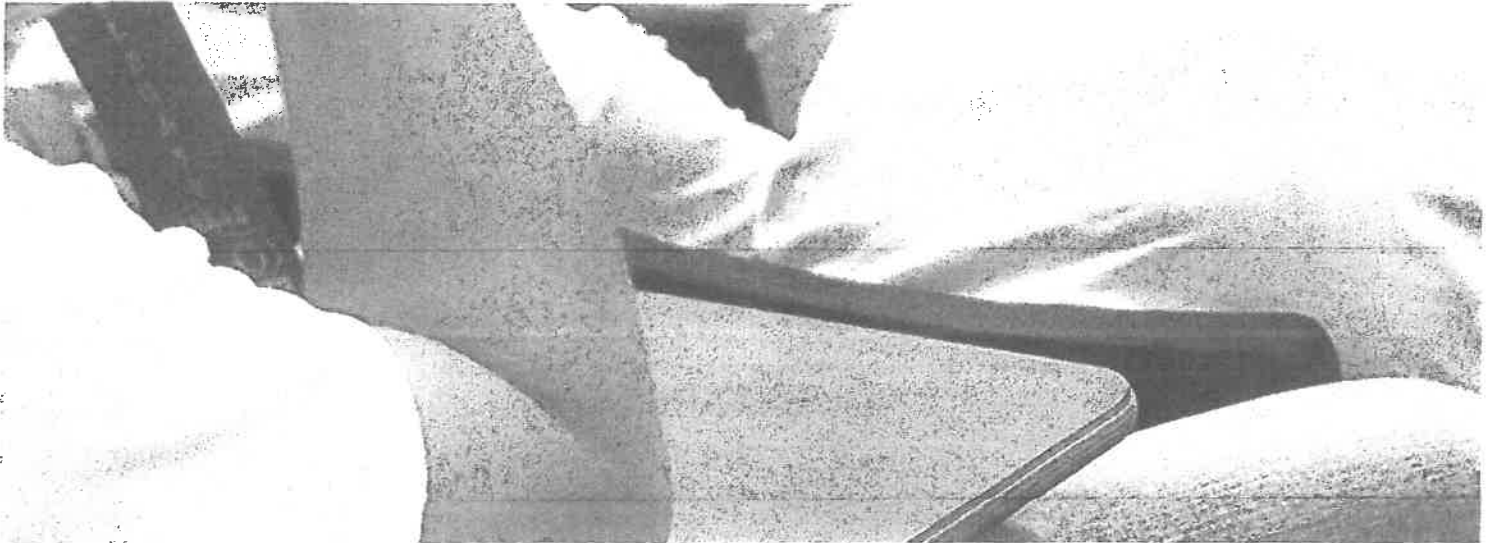
I would love to tell you more about the program and how the nomination process works! Please either e-mail me at the address below so we can get you what is needed. I look forward to hearing from you!

Best wishes,

*Justin "Chuck" Faith
Volunteer School Outreach Coordinator
Texas Boys State
www.texasboysstate.com
Personal e-mail address:
mr.faith@faithinlearning.net*



LEARN BY DOING



**WHAT TO
EXPECT**

**NOMINATION
INFO**

NOMINATION PROCESS

The American Legion believes our American government can survive only with an educated populace. By teaching youth to understand and appreciate our democratic republic, America can



LEARN BY DOING

**Contact your local
American Legion Post**

Loading...

— Top of Page —

NOMINATION INFORMATION

**Memo to High School
Superintendents,
Principals, and Counselors**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS**

**POST BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN
CERTIFICATION FORM**

MUST BE COMPLETED BY POST ADJUTANT

American Legion Post _____, located in _____ hereby, certifies the following individual as Post American Legion Boys State Chairman:

Name: _____ **ID #:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **ST** **TX** **Zip:** _____

PH: _____ **Email:** _____

All American Legion Boys State packets are mailed in January. Posts that certify their Boys State Chairman will receive this extra packet. All other Posts will receive only the standard Post Boys State Mailing.

Post Commander / Adjutant

Date