

Whew! I think I will say it again, whew!

Who knew one year ago about all of the happenings and events going on in the world as we approach the beginning of August 2020. If your life is like mine, there is a lot going on in all areas: personal, professional, and Sons of The American Legion. I have been writing this email in various forms for a couple of weeks and its contents have grown significantly. I decided I needed to cut it down to focus on the most important items. Therefore, I am going to present it in a bullet point form so I can be sure I get the information shared in a manageable manner.

It is important to get your Squadron, District, and Division certifications in as soon as possible. Even if you have the same officers as last year, you need to send in your certifications as soon as possible.

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This is not only a Detachment of Texas issue but a National Sons of The American Legion concern. We need to send in our Consolidated Squadron Reports. I know this has been problematic due to access to our Posts have been limited. However, we cannot use this as an excuse. I know that Posts are closed but I don't know of anywhere you can't get with someone who will let you in for a few minutes to get what you need for your Squadron's report. ***Remember*** You can always fill out your CSR online BUT if you do, be sure to print out a copy to keep for your own records AND print a copy to be sent to Adjutant Bill Kuehner. It is vital to send a copy to Bill!

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Membership, membership, membership. While we are way behind on our 2020 membership numbers we can continue to send in new members and renewals. On the national Membership Committee conference call, it was mentioned that if we get only 5% more of our remaining renewals turned in, we will hit our 100% goal nationally. While we would still have some more work to do in Texas, it would get us much closer to our Detachment goal. One of the ways we can do this is through Buddy Checks. If we call our unpaid membership to check on their well-being, we can then transition to their membership status. Many people are concerned with maintaining their consecutive years with the Sons and may not realize the need to pay their dues even with the Posts being shut down.

On a related note, we need to get email addresses for our members if they have one. Again, this is a focus by National but it is also important on the state and local level as well. As we have learned during the pandemic, it is vital that we find ways to stay in touch with everyone. I realize that not everyone has an email but there are many that do and we need to make a stronger effort to get those emails, especially when we sign up new members.

Finally, we need to take advantage of our leadership structure. Squadrons, if you have a question or an issue, your first call should be to your District Commander. Districts then can go up to Division Commanders and eventually to the proper Detachment officer. You should NOT be calling Mamie or National. Also, if you need to contact the Chaplain, there is a link to contact him directly on the Detachment web page, saltexas.org.

In these past few months, I have grown to hate the phrases “unprecedented times” and “new normal”. However, we truly are in unprecedented times and we do not know how close the new normal will be to the old normal. There have been in the past and maybe in the future some things that have never happened before. As an organization, we need to roll with the punches and push through. The Sons of The American Legion is a strong organization and we will continue to be strong if we focus the work and remember to support our veterans and The American Legion.

For God and Country,

Eddy Seegers

Commander

Sons of The American Legion

Detachment of Texas