

American Legion-Department of Texas: Veterans Employment Preference Report September 2023

In August 2023, the National Veteran Un employment rate was 3.6% up from 2.8% in July and 2.4% in August of 2022.

Also in August 2023, the comparable non-veteran unemployment rate was 3.7%, up from 3.4% the previous month and 3.6% the prior year.

Unemployment Rates By Gender and Veteran Status

September 2022 – August 2023 Averaged*

Women Veterans 2.8%

Women Nonveterans 3.4%

Male Veterans 2.7%

Male Nonveterans 3.6%

**12-month moving average generated using unpublished data tables obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:*

Unemployment Rates by Disability and Veteran Status

September 2022 – August 2023 Averaged*

Veterans with a disability* 5.0%

Nonveterans with a disability 7.1%

Veterans with no disability 2.5%

Nonveterans with no disability 3.3%

**12-month moving average generated using unpublished data tables obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Table 16.*

The Veteran unemployment rate for the State of Texas in August 2023 is 4.1%.

Unemployment rates for Cities across Texas (August 2023):

Amarillo: 3.6%

Austin/Round Rock: 3.9%

Abilene: 3.9%

Beaumont-Port Arthur: 6.7%

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Brownsville/ Harlingen: 6.0%

College Station: 3.8%

Dallas/Plano/Fort Worth: 4.1%

El Paso: 5.2%

Houston: 4.9%

Killeen: 5.0%

Laredo: 4.4%

Longview: 4.8%

McAllen: 6.8%

Midland: 2.8%

San Antonio: 4.3%

Sherman-Denison: 4.3%

Texarkana: 4.2%

Tyler: 4.3%

Wichita Falls: 4.4%

Texas specific Veteran Job Fairs & programs:

- The American Legion participated at the Fort Cavazos Summer mega job fair on 6/13/2023.
- The American Legion, National, hosted an employment workshop for transitioning service members on 6/12/23 on Fort Cavazos. This was in coordination and partnership with Fort Cavazos, TVLP, and TVC. 60 Transitioning service members attended.
- Yesterday, 7/12/23, the American Legion National, TVC, and TWC/TVLP hosted a virtual job fair using the Primer Virtual Platform.
 - 84 employers
 - 236 Registered
 - 182 Veteran job seekers
 - **38 job offers or interviews scheduled. Tremendous event. Everyone was happy!**

In January, the Texas Workforce Commission and Workforce Solutions of Central Texas were awarded a \$7.8 million Department of Labor Dislocated Worker Grant to retrain

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military members and their spouses as they transition to civilian employment. As of Jun 3 2023, they were at 90% of their grant completion. The grant is paying for training and supportive services, including purchasing mechanic tool sets up to \$4,000. They have served over 1,000 transitioning service members and military spouses.

In March 2023, Workforce Solutions Borderplex was awarded a \$4.7 million Military Service Member National Dislocated Worker Grant.

The annual Report on Transition from Military Service to Employment has been posted at the link below:

HB 257 Report on the Transition from Military Service to Employment 2023 (texas.gov)

The numbers for the 2022 Hiring Red, White and You statewide job fair:

	Year	Employers	Veterans	Non-Veterans	Total Job- Jobseekers	On Site Hires
	2022	2153	3071	7969	11040	634
	2021	1863	1832	4695	6500	400
Difference		290	1239	3274	4540	234

We Hire Vets, sponsored by TWC and TVC, has issued 1,021 deserving Texas Employers.

The current military spouses unemployment rate between 22%.

SB 1376 passed the Texas 88th Legislature. This provides a preference for state employment for the spouses of veterans who have an unemployability rating and for Active-Duty Military Spouses including the National Guard. I want to make sure you all know that the order of precedence, does not change, disable veteran and veteran always have the first preference.

The changes on the State of Texas application were in effect 9/1/2023.

The Military Spouse Career Accelerator Pilot program is free to employers, and spouses will be paid by the Department of Defense during their 12-week fellowships.

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It's open to spouses of currently serving members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Space Force, to include active, reserve and National Guard components. Spouses can find information about how to apply at the Military OneSource: [Spouse Education and Career Opportunities website](#).

President Biden signed a provision into law earlier this month making it easier across the board for military spouses to transfer professional license when making a military move.

This is the first time a federal law requires states to provide reciprocity in accepting valid occupational license from previous jurisdictions. The law also applies to service members.

2022 American Legion National Employer Award Winners

DVOP	Kelly Norris, Garland
LVER	Eric Brown, Dallas
Small Employer	TangoAlpha3, Austin
Medium Employer	Texas Veteran Security, San Antonio
Large Employer	AKIMA, FT Bliss-FT Cavazos
Homeless Veterans	None Submitted
Local Office	Workforce Solutions Panhandle
Enhancing Lives of Disabled Veterans	PRIDE Industries, FT Worth
Employer of Older Workers	Harris Health Systems

For all categories, the American Legion- Department of Texas Received 40 nominations. Nominations came from American Legion Post, Texas Veterans Commission, and the Texas Veterans Leadership Program with the Texas Workforce Commission. We were able to submit awards for 8 out of the 9 award categories. We pulled the award for the Michael Guty Homeless Veterans program.

I am happy to report that the eight awards that were submitted are also National Award winners!!!!

The 2023 American Legion Employment Awards will be sent out by the end of September 2023.

Legislative Report / Clifton Guillory

SAC Fall DEC, SEPTEMBER, 23, 2023

Senators told VA Officials on Wednesday in wake of an inspector general report that found problems with the agency's crisis hotline for suicide prevention.

It is a frustrating situation

Wait times to see mental health specialists are too long.

Mental health care access via telehealth have been implemented too slowly.

Suicides among veterans far outpace the rate among civilians

The VA faces many challenges in suicide prevention from technical issues implementing telehealth services to a shortfall of qualified mental health specialists.

A recent report by the VA Inspector General found a Texas veteran died by suicide within an hour of receiving subpar help from the VA's Veterans Crisis Line.

The IG report found that crisis line responders failed to recognize the veteran's suicide risk or ~~p~~ implemented a prevention plan after engaging in a 75 minute, 80 text conversation.

The veteran in his 30's was documented with past suicidal behavior.

The crisis line staff failed to properly document communications with the veteran and fail to inform local VA officials here in Texas about his death which was done by hanging.

The VA promises to do better, however the wait times to receive help is entirely too long, and a situation we have got to solve.

Clifton Bullock
Legislative Committee

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

September 23, 2023


Children and Youth met by the pool at 10:30 AM on September 23, 2023. The following members were present: Child Welfare Chairman Shannon Boyce, Children and Youth Chairman Tracy Wood, 11th District Commander Dustin Fowler and Past Detachment Commander Brad Pack.

We are looking at doing something besides a raffle. More information to follow.

50/50 Raffle to cover Janitorial Services for the SAL banquet at St. Elmo Post 83.

Respectfully Submitted,


Shannon Boyce


Tracy Wood

Children And Youth/ Child Welfare

July 13, 2023

Meeting was held 7/13/23, Friday Afternoon. Members present were Shannon Boyce, Chairman Child Welfare, Tracy Wood, Chairman, Children and Youth, Brad Pack, Past PDC, Joey Bess, 21st District Commander.

We went over the CSR's to determine total hours and money contributed to Children and Youth/ Child Welfare for year 2022/2023. Amounts are as follows:

Child Welfare Foundation Donations	\$9298.75	Hours CWF	1541
Special Olympics Donation	\$2475	Hours	1095
Childrens Miracle Network	\$1802	Hours	272
Ronald McDonald House	\$935	Hours	90
Childrens Organ Transplant	\$712	Hours	89
TAL Veterans	\$892	Hours	120
Other C&Y Projects	\$19,865	Hours	4797

Squadron winners are as follows:

District	5th District
Small	368 Richardson
Medium	597 Carrollton
Large	453 Dallas Love Field

We had some PDC's and Commanders take some pies to the face, as well as the race cars,(thank you David Owens).

We had a cornhole tournament at Post 447 Round Rock at 6 pm, winners were Tom Skelley and Tracy Wood.

Children and Youth/ Child Welfare's Brad Pack took care of a Pizza Party for all of the kids Saturday afternoon.

We had our annual drawing for some gift cards, winners were as follows.

1st place \$250 gift card	Wolf Squadron 283
2nd place \$150 gift card	Wolf Squadron 283
3rd place \$50 gift card	Wolf Squadron 283

Thank you Wolf for supporting our programs.

C&Y page 2

David Blair sold the most tickets for raffle and won \$50

We had a great weekend, and along with the things listed above , we passed the hat and had a few fines (thank you Zack). The total amount raised after expenses was \$3165.

The Children and Youth/ Child Welfare committes would like to thank everyone in the Detachment for donating to the kids.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Wood
Chairman- Children and Youth

Shannon Boyce
Chairman - Child Welfare

09-23-2023

FALL DEC

Marketing met this morning, those present were Bill Kuchner Michael Conrager and myself. We discussed price increase on new shirts due to increase of cost. The new cost will be \$35 and \$40⁰⁰ for MAIZE colored shirts.

I also informed them that we had turned in \$800 after conversion in Italy.

For Gold & Country

Ray

PUFC Report Sept 23, 2023
FNU DFC

TOTAL MEMBERS. 221

TOTAL DECEASED 43

Dues Collected 2023 7534⁰⁰

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE 71,778⁰⁰

Convention City Report at Fall DEC September, 2023

American Legion Hotel and Future Dates

Annual Conventions - Legion, Auxiliary, & SAL

<i>Hotel</i>	<i>Address</i>
Renaissance Austin Hotel (512) 343-2626	9721 Arboretum Boulevard Austin, Texas 78759

Reservation cutoff dates: To Be Announced after Mid Winter Conferences

Future Dates: 2024 – July 10th – 14th Room rate \$117.00
SAL July 12th-14th

2025 – July 9th – 13th Room rate \$119.00
SAL July 11th-13th

American Legion 2023 Fall DEC Meeting - September 20 – 24, 2023 - \$123
SAL September 23-24, 2024

Austin Southpark Hotel - 4140 Governors Row, Austin, TX. 78744 (512) 448-2222

Future Fall DEC Dates:

September 18–22, 2024 – \$125.00 / SAL September 21-22, 2024

September 17–21, 2025 – \$127.00 / SAL September 20-21, 2025

American Legion 2024 Mid Winter Conference – January 16-21, 2024 - \$125
SAL January 20-21, 2024

Austin Southpark Hotel - 4140 Governors Row, Austin, TX. 78744 (512) 448-2222

Future Mid Winter Conference Date: January 14 – 19, 2025 – \$127
SAL January 18-19, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Lewis Elam – Detachment of Texas Convention City Chairman,
Joey Bess District 21 Commander, ~~Albert Arrellano~~ Past Detachment Commander

Dustin Moore
Ken Peters

Albert Arrellano

{ ON THE SCENE }

SCULPTING A *Legacy*

**MAN HONORS FATHER, AND ALL THOSE WHO SERVED,
THROUGH ART AND A STRONG DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY**

STORY BY FELICIA FRAZAR

PHOTOS BY FELICIA FRAZAR AND COURTESY OF JOHN JELLISON

Every time John Jellison gets on a motorcycle, he carries two veterans with him.

As an American Legion Rider, Jellison's vest is adorned with patches and medals, as well as photos of his father and grandfather. Although he's not a veteran himself, he supports veterans and veteran service organizations, such as the Sons of the American Legion, which he currently serves as the third division commander for the state of Texas.

Jellison joined the organization at the behest of his father during a rough time in his life.

"It gave me a purpose," Jellison said. "Once he passed away, I got into the American Legion to honor his service. That is what the Sons of the American Legion do, they honor their fathers and grandfathers. It is a legacy thing. I do this to honor my father and it's been a pleasure. It's a proud heritage that Sons of the American Legion have for their fathers."

Jellison's service to the organization is now visible through a pair of statues he carved. The most recent, "Follow Me," is a permanent fixture at the American Legion Post 245 at 618 E. Kingsbury St.

The statue features a World War II soldier lying on the ground pointing with a pair of dogs — Sgt. Stubby and Smokey — leading the way.

Long-time friend and Sons of the American Legion Cmdr. Jay Macleod approached Jellison about carving a statue for the local American Legion to honor veterans.

When Jellison found the perfect piece of wood, he began chipping away. After about six months of sculpting, the 10-foot piece was finished and installed at the American Legion Post 245. Inspiration for the soldier came from a famed picture from Iwo Jima. At the far right, there is a soldier wearing a backpack and pointing toward the flag.

"I took the likeness of him and imagined him on the ground with his finger pointing and that is the guy I carved," Jellison said.

For the dogs, he selected Sgt. Stubby and Smokey. Sgt. Stubby served in World War I as a member of the Rainbow Division and was the first canine to promote to sergeant status by earning numerous awards and two battle stripes. He was awarded four combat stars for

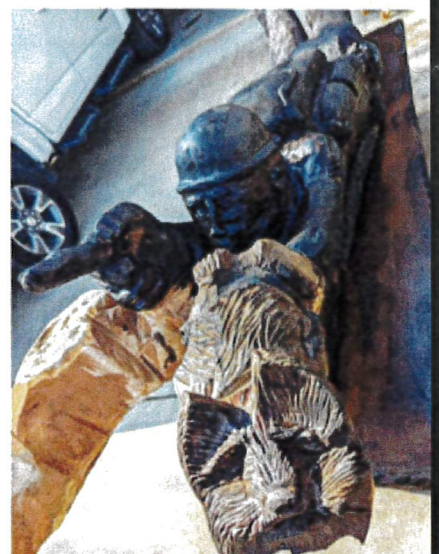
his work in 17 battles and four campaigns during his 18 months of service. Smokey, who served during World War II, is known as the first therapy dog.

She is credited with a combat jump, eight battle stars and numerous awards, as well as saving the lives of more than 750 airmen in New Guinea. She never performed the same trick twice for anyone she ever performed in front of.

Wood sculpting was something very new to Jellison, who only carved a handful of items, including walking sticks, prior to his foray into large statues.

"I like being busy. I retired about five or six years ago and I wanted something to do. I've always been artistic," he said. "I just thought if I was going to carve something, I'd carve a little Indian head and my grandson has it. My neighbor had a crepe myrtle tree so I got a bunch of the branches and when I get in the mood, I grab a branch and start carving. I just see what I want to carve and I take the wood off."

With the sculpture project behind him, Jellison said he'll stick to carving canes for now and continue showing his support for veterans through his service. ★



SCULPTING A LEGACY

Man honors father, and all those who served, through art and a strong dedication to community

Felicia Frazar The Seguin Gazette
Nov 4, 2023

1 of 4



Jay Macleod and John Jellison pose for a photo next to the "Follow Me" statue after they unveiled on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 at the American Legion Post 245. The statue was crafted to honor all military veterans, including service dogs.

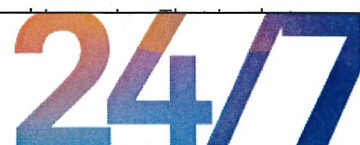
Felicia Frazar - The Seguin Gaze

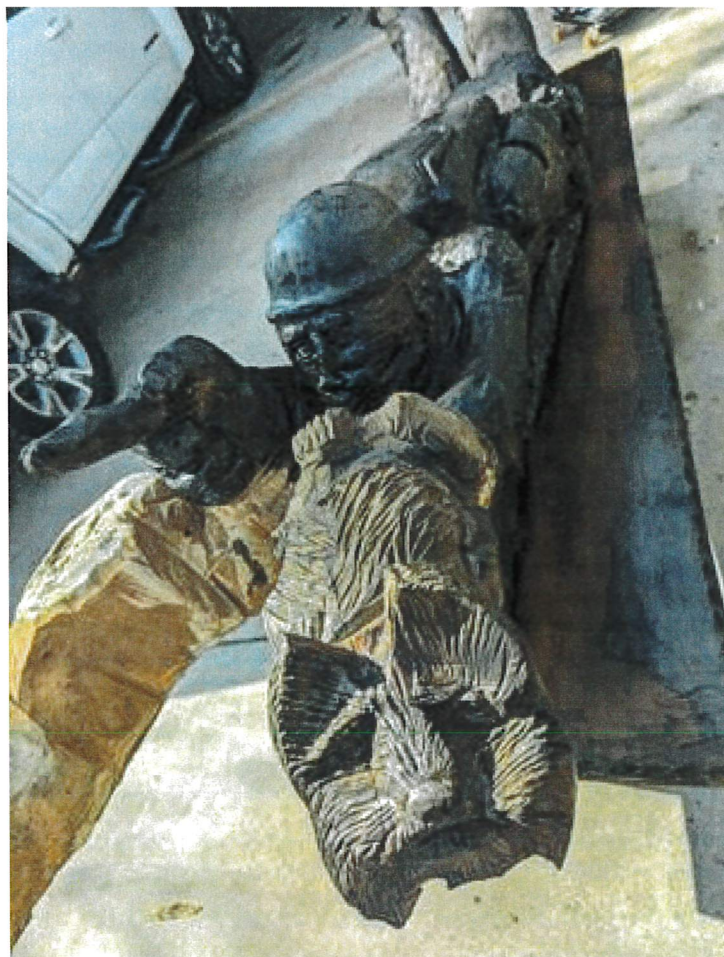
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Courtesy photo - Special to the Seguin Gazette

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Newsletter

I visited post 593 Sons of the American legion, another example of how the sons are helping the post, veterans and the community with donations of money, holiday baskets, turkeys and for the senior dinner event. Great job to see how the SAL makes a difference. Great meeting these fine gentlemen.

Marty Frank Memorial Hall



Newsletter

the schulenburg post 143 SAL , with only 12 guys in the group that donated 1500 dollars to this charity that gives wheelchairs for veterans, half of all the money they have in the bank.
Even the smallest group makes a difference, go SAL

God Bless America



Greater Fort Worth American Legion Post 516
6801 Manhattan Blvd
Fort Worth, TX 76120
Phone No: (817) 451-7222



LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Win a Lifetime Membership
For Legionnaire or Legion Auxilliary
Drawing to be held at sales of 250 Tickets
Donation \$10.00

Winner need not be present to win.
**** Good for one "Membership" only ****