

The Fifth District Family:

I pray this correspondence finds you and your family staying safe. We are all living and dealing with very unusual circumstance. COVID 19 is real and contagious. I urge and suggest you protect yourself and your family by following the precautions medical professional have advised. Please pray for 15th District Commander Simon Muniz, he has been hospitalized for COVID 19.

News you can use:

- ✓ It has recently come to my attention that some Post in the 5th District are open and serving customers in the canteen. Please be advised that “All Post” in the 5th District should be closed, no exceptions’. No Post meetings, elections or any other Post activities are currently allowed.
- ✓ Please be advised that TBAC raided and shut down (in Austin this week) an American Legion Post. We have been informed by TABC, “any Post with a bar or canteen, then it must be closed”. I will be compelled to report any Post that disregard’s/violates these TABC mandates.
- ✓ From Bret Watson – MOPAC Chairman – American Legion – Department of Texas
 - 1) Commanders: “The need for this information is so the Judge Advocate can have the information of how many canteens and post facilities are in the State of Texas. **He will be contacting the State to see if we can hold meetings in our buildings that have canteens since all canteens and bars are officially closed.** Those Posts that are TABC licensed, are not able to open for meetings since their license covers all their premises”.
- ✓ Its “Membership Drive Time”. On Sunday, 12 July 2020, I was given the membership boxes for the posts in the 5th District.
 - 1) The 5th District Vice-Commander (W.S “Big T” Turner) will be contacting each Post/Vice Command/Post Adjutant to arrange delivery/pickup of your box. “Big T” plans to exceed our membership accomplishments of 2020.
 - Contact information – 5th District Vice-Commander W.S. Turner (Big T)
 - Please text or call at 214/ 632-8662
 - Email address - wsturner@yahoo
- ✓ Subsequently, we have suggested the following priorities and approach to the retention and recruitment effort. As always, your thoughts, suggestions and ideas are requested and welcomed.
 - 1) 100% Membership Retention – Let’s get every 2020 paid member to renew in 2021. We believe retaining our 2020 members should be our 1st priority. 100% retention should be our base line.
 - 2) 345’s – Mylegion.org can pull 345’s by zip code or by distance from you Post You can find paid members near your Post; identify paid members in zip codes close to your post and in your neighborhood. 345’s were vital to the membership success of 2020 in the 5th District and other Districts.
 - 3) New Members – Recruiting new members in the COVID-19 environment represent some very real challenges for us in 2021. We will seek ideas, help and assistance from Bret Watson our MOPAC Chairman.

- 4) Post Financial Assistance: Department leadership and the DEC are currently discussing several potential initiatives to offer financial relief to Post struggling during these difficult times. They are as follows:
 - Cares Act: Additional funding may become available, pending congressional approval. Commander Perkins and leaders from other veteran service organizations are advocating expedited and priority funding to Veteran Service Organizations’.
 - Rainy Day Grant Funding: Currently, Department leadership and the DEC are discussing the release of funding via the Rainy-Day Fund. It would have to be a grant program, that the Post will not be required to pay back. We (Department of Texas) are not an authorized loan company/institution in the State of Texas. Subsequently, it will require the Department Treasurer investigate any possible issue(s) and ensure we preserve our tax-exempt status.
 - 5) Department leadership and the DEC are currently discussing the Fall DEC. COVID 19 restrictions will impact the manner and method the Fall DEC may be conducted. I will share updated information, as it becomes available.
- ✓ Please, reach out to Vice-Commander Turner, as soon as possible. Its “Membership Drive” go time! With your hard work and dedication, Vice-Commander Turner believe the “Fighting 5th” “Can Unseat the 13th and exceed the outstanding job they did in 2019.

Alan H. CAESAR
District Commander
“The Fighting 5th”