

We had our first Executive Committee and Post meetings on July 6, 2021 since restrictions on social gatherings related to the COVID-19 outbreak were enacted at the South County Community Center, our meeting venue. Unfortunately, we only had five officers attend the Executive Committee meeting which was not adequate for a quorum (six officers are required). Nonetheless, we had a good discussion and minutes were taken. We did have eight members attend the Post meeting which satisfies the quorum of eight members required so the meeting was official.

We are excited to report that both Executive Committee and Post meetings will continue at the South County Community Center on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM respectively. Please endeavor to join us as your attendance is critical to ensure that we have a quorum to conduct Post business. Below is the schedule for the remainder of 2021:

August 3
September 2
October 5
November 9 (deferred one week due to Election Day)
December 7

We will announce the 2022 schedule as soon as we have confirmed dates with the Community Center.

The increased prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the new Delta and Delta Plus variants has continued to curtail our activities. I encourage you to continue to use good judgment in your upcoming activities. Please get vaccinated if you haven't already done so and follow the guidelines for mask use and social distancing.

The 2021 Texas Boys State program was held this year as a virtual event during the period 27 June – 2 July as was last year's event. Thirty eight boys from local High Schools participated which ties our all time record set in 2019 under the guidance of Victoria Glover, former 1st Vice Commander and Past Commander. Sadly, Victoria has moved outside of our area and has transferred to another Post. She was instrumental in helping me transition into the Commander's role and provide guidance in managing the Boys State program and is sorely missed. We were able to sign up thirty nine candidates from six local High Schools but one boy withdrew due to a conflict. Hopefully next year's program will return to an in person event.

The event was well represented across the state and was successful as reported by many of the attendees. Here are some comments I have received from current and former attendees:

Hey Mr. Carter,

I would like to personally thank you and AL Post 305 for providing me with the opportunity to attend such a great program.

This week has been one of the best weeks of my life. When I first found out that Texas Boys State was going to be virtual, I was understandably a bit disappointed because I believed at the time that the Boys

State experience would not be the same and as captivating as it would have been in person. However, I was intrigued the moment that Forman city met for the first time at 2 PM sharp for our very first city meeting. It was millions of miles away from just being a depressing zoom center as we were thrown instantly into action and began to vote on city positions only a few minutes after we had started. The bonding was astounding, we created a city flag within the first day and were united under a pivotal slogan: "Forman City, Best City!" Following this city meeting, I began to see a beautiful and powerful comradery begin to develop between all of us, and to me it felt like a family that I could trust and enjoy the program with. Through the seriousness of the program, we cracked jokes and found ways to balance out both the great serious aspects and the fun. The many intricate and beautiful aspects of this program motivated me greatly to make the best of it.

As an elected member of the House of Representatives, I was prepared to do everything I could for the sake of my great city, so I got the courage to begin drafting a bill that would be proposed. My newly found friends Mr. Sevcik and Mr. Magno aided me in the editing of my bill, ImproveEd House Bill #276. There was one particular issue in regards to funding, but my friends were able to find funding through asking for help in finding plausible sources of income. With that, we were able to pass the bill through our committee and it was eventually passed in the House. Time was tight, so there was not enough time for the Senate to view the bill, but we still felt a great sense of accomplishment for all the mutual hard work we put into the bill.

As a whole, I took a number of valuable lessons that I wish to share as a leader to my fellow band members when school resumes. The phrase "Learn by Doing" could not be more true. In the beginning of this journey we call "Boy's State", a good amount of my fellow city members, including myself, were perplexed on how to develop an entire working system for the government of Texas, but we did just that. **We**. The teamwork and comradery developed between all members of the 2021 Texas Boys State highlights the utter importance of teamwork in any activity and the importance of including everyone's ideas and beliefs.

I very much appreciate the opportunity that has been given to me to attend such a world-class program. This program teaches one so many things in regards to leadership, determination, and perhaps more importantly teamwork and bonding. Thank you for this great opportunity!

--
Miguel Vasquez
Magnolia HS

Dear Mr. Carter,

Hello! My name is Nicholas Harris. I was one of the John Cooper delegates to Texas Boys State last year. I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to come back this year as a counselor. I had a great experience, and I wanted to thank you again for sponsoring me to attend Texas Boys State last year! It's a wonderful program, and I was really excited to return this year as a counselor.

Thank you,
Nicholas Harris

In previous issues I reported on Martin (Marty) Joseph Gonzalez, son of Tomas Gonzales, a long time member of our Post and a diligent volunteer for Honor Guard services at the National Cemetery. Tomas lost his son last November, 2020 from ongoing disabilities suffered in combat

in Iraq. Refer to April and May 2021 Commander's Corners for more information about Marty. Tomas is sending me further information about his son which I will continue to report on in future issues including efforts to have a Marine Corps barracks named in his honor.

Another of our members, Chris McMartin, who is also a local JROTC instructor, has set ambitious goals for himself for participation in the "100 Miles for Hope" program as reported by Chris. Follow the links for latest updates.

As reported by Chris:

For this year's American Legion "100 Miles for Hope" campaign, I've set an ambitious goal, with a sort of "Air/Land/Sea" theme. My plan, between 01 April and 06 September, is to run 100 miles, bike 1,000 miles, swim 10 miles, scuba dive 100 minutes, and pilot a plane 1,000 miles. The hardest part for me will actually be running since prior injuries limit the distance I can run at one time. The other goals are more limited by time available than exertion.

I posted on Legion Town (<http://www.legiontown.org/100-miles/7612/air-land-and-sea-hope>) and National plans to do a story/video about it. I posted a small update to YouTube and gave a shout out to Post 305:

[2021 05 09 100 Miles for Hope Update](#)

The story has gone national...link has article and video. I gave a shout out to our local American Legion post as well as our JROTC program. :)

<https://www.legion.org/100miles/252678/100-miles-hope-land-sea-and-air>

I have also set up a fundraiser on Facebook where I provide updates. If people wish to donate via Facebook, 100% of their donation goes to the Veterans and Children's Fund (Facebook does not take a percentage).

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/2644647222505019/>

One of the topics I am interested in is news about our MIAs. Below is a link to a website (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) that documents recovery of MIAs:

<https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/>

Another website, from which I occasionally draw articles of particular interest, is recommended:

<https://www.military.com/daily-news>