

12: 2010-December 2018 - A New Post Home

The New Year, 2010, brought efforts to raise money to build a new post headquarters building. Until then, monthly post meetings were held at the VFW meeting hall at Wolters Park.

Fund raising efforts included the VVA Chapter 870 donating \$1000, the Schulenburg VFW donating \$5000, and donations from other American Legion Posts in Texas (Flatonia, Round Top, La Grange, Hallettsville, Weimar, Fayetteville, Rosenberg, and Richmond). These donations, plus those of local businesses and citizens, resulted in \$158,268 in pledges and donations by April 6, 2010. McBride Post also continued its meal fundraisers. The February 2010 stew dinner raised an unprecedented \$6557.

Frank Bohlmann of Schulenburg drafted the plans for the new post home, a 45'x 65' building with a kitchen. Bids were received, and the one submitted by Sandy Meyerson of Meyerson Custom Builders for \$179,300.00 was accepted. On March 22, 2010 the ground breaking ceremony was held for the new post home. Construction was completed in October of that same year. The final costs for the new post home was \$180,900 paid to Sandy Meyerson. With \$93,145 collected through fund raisers and donations, plus the \$100,000 insurance payment, the post had \$1440 left over to buy incidentals.



*Exterior and interior of new Post home, 2010*

A mural of the U.S. Flag was painted on the inside back wall of the post home by Carole Halla and Billy Ray Emfinger--Commander Hatfield's daughter-in-law's mother and stepfather--for the price of a good dinner.

The ribbon cutting for the new post home was held on October 23, 2010 at 10 a.m. New tables and chairs were bought from Schulenburg Printing Supply for \$5700. A new gun safe was also purchased in October, and new ceremonial rifles received December 23, 2010, with the leather slings arriving in February 2011.

The first meeting held at the new post home was on November 2, 2010. And on February 19, 2011, the post held an open house and dedication for the general public. Rent for the new hall was set at \$200. This was updated in 2015 with a \$50 deposit now part of a \$250 rental charge. With their new post home finished, the McBride Post again hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> District Convention. Held on October 9, 2011, the post raised over \$8000.

Even with the challenge of building a new post home, McBride Post 143 continued to operate as usual.

Membership recruitment continued with the post reaching their 100% membership goals at the end of fiscal years 2011, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

The Honor Guard covered 138 funerals between July 2010 and June 2018, including those of Andy Lamascus, a former Prisoner of War, Ernest Chaloupka, founder of the Praha Veterans Club, Louis Nitschke, who served as post chaplain from 1994-2011, Adolf Ulrich, who served as Sergeant-At-Arms from 1988-1999, Jerome Sassin, who served as Serve Officer from 1991-1999, Clarence Guentert, who was a 70 year member, and Otto Kocian, a five year legion member and Mayor of Schulenburg.

Of note this decade, the Color Guard participated in the St. Mary's Catholic Church, High Hill, TX, 150<sup>th</sup> year celebrations on September 5, 2010. And, on November 11, 2012, they participated in Praha's Veterans Day Program 50th Anniversary. They also continued to post the Colors at their traditional events to include the Schulenburg High School Home Football Game Flag raisings, local church picnic flag raisings, NRA Banquet Colors posting, and the Schulenburg Relay for Life Colors posting.

The War Wagon won several awards in local parades to include First Place in the Antique Truck Division at the Fayette County Fair Parade 2012 through 2015, First Place in the Weimar Gedenke Parade in 2016, and Most Patriotic in the Ellinger 82<sup>nd</sup> Tomato Festival Parade in May 2018. Unfortunately the War Wagon broke down during the 2015 Schulenburg Festival Parade and could not finish, but the participating veterans walked the rest of the way.

In June 2011, five local WWII veterans participated in the Honor Flights Network to see the War memorials in Washington D.C.

*Started in 2005, the Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. They transport heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans - World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.*

Throughout this decade the McBride Post continued to support veterans and give back to the community. The post makes annual donations

to local community organizations and other state veteran groups in need. Between 2011-2018, the post's donations included: \$500 to Schulenburg Food Pantry; \$100 to the Boy Scouts celebrating their 100 years of active service to the Schulenburg Community; \$50 to the local Marine Corps League Ball (an annual donation); \$95 to the Schulenburg Fire department; \$250 to the Smithville, TX Veterans Memorial Park; and \$688 to the Wharton Legion Post whose hall was severely damaged during Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

In February 2011, Commander Hatfield and comrade Jack Moretz took time to meet with Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Soldier, Specialist Troy Yocum, as he passed through Schulenburg during his walk across America. Troy hiked over seven thousand miles across America in 2010-2011 to help bring awareness to issues faced by veterans and their families.

In 2012, the executive committee was assigned the task to get the post's Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Chapter, which was chartered on April 11, 1937(see page 15) and became nonoperational over the years due to lack of interest, back on track with new membership. On February 7, 2013, the SAL held a recruitment meeting attended by 20 potential members, 17 of which eventually signed up that year. Travis Liehardt was elected as the SAL Chapter commander at the first official meeting on February 20, 2013. SAL participated for the first time in the Praha Veterans day program in November 2013. Momentum and membership attendance was low for the next two years. On November 3, 2015, the SAL held a meeting with the Post Commander, Bob Heinrich, to discuss whether the SAL chapter should continue. The members who attended the meeting voted to remain active, and new officers were elected. Participation picked up, and in the spring of 2016 the SAL helped install curb posts to protect the post headquarters building's front entrance handrails, and installed new tips on the facility's tables and chairs to protect the polished floor. New officers were again elected in June 2016 due to loss of members (see Annex B for SAL Officer History). Membership dues for the SAL were set in September 2016 at \$20, \$10 to the district and \$10 to the local chapter.

On August 22, 2013, veterans, businesses and other organizations gathered on the Interstate 10 Frontage Road to support the 8th Legion Legacy Run which started in Indianapolis, IN and ended in League City, TX. Over 250 motorcycle riders passed through that day. The post donated \$100 to the cause which raises funds for scholarships for gold star children.

In June 2013, Commander Hatfield who had served as McBride Post 143 Commander for 12 years stepped down, and Robert "Bob" Heinrich stepped up as the new post commander. One of his first acts was to apply for a property tax exemption for the post home from the Fayette County Appraisal district. The request was approved saving the post \$3000 per year.

In November 2015, Mark Meysembourg, the chapter director of the Tri-County Legion Riders approached American Legion Post 143 about transferring the Rider's charter from Post 256, Weimar, TX, to the Schulenburg post. Post 143 members voted and approved the transfer in January 2016. See Annex C for more information on the Tri-County Legion Riders Chapter and their list of officers.

This decade was also the time of many "firsts":

- In 2009, the post's Legionnaire of the Year award was implemented. Stan Correll was the first winner. In 2010, Jack Moretz and Bob Heinrich were joint winners. Other winners this decade include:

2011-Eugene Krupala  
2012-James Hatfield  
2013-Robert Hranicky  
2014-James Brossmann

2015-Willy Schmidt  
2016-Nathan Loth  
2017-Johnny Barton  
2018-Jim Chapman

- On May 4, 2013, the post draped the Post Charter for the first time in remembrance of member Ben Sustr, who had recently died. The post continues this practice at each monthly meeting for any member who passed away since the last meeting.
- The July 2, 2013, meeting was the first time a POW chair was made visible and recognized. This practice continues today.
- Also in 2013, Commander Heinrich decided to start posting legion meeting reports in the Schulenburg Sticker as a public relations tool to keep the public up-to-date on what the post was doing. He appointed Patricia Hranicky of the Auxiliary to facilitate the articles with the Schulenburg Sticker.
- In January 2014 a scholarship committee was established. They drafted the post's scholarship policy and application process. That same year the first two \$500 scholarships were awarded to Schulenburg High School graduates Dakota Zapalac and Calli Guentert.
  - o The 2015 \$500 scholarships were awarded to Clayton Brossmann and Will Davidson.
  - o In 2017, the \$500 winners were Stormie Dunning and Jacob Salem.
  - o In 2018, due to the increased cost of college education, the post unanimously approved to raise the scholarship amount to \$1000 each for up to three recipients. The SAL voted to provide \$300 towards this goal. Commander Heinrich applied for a grant through WALMART, who awarded \$1000 towards the post's scholarship fund. The 2018 scholarship winners were Cassie Redding, April Borssmann, and Kaitlyn Smith.
- In 2014 a Mew Membership Committee was appointed by Commander Heinrich to spur recruitment. Committee members were Anna Corley, Terrell Brown, Erwin Cernoch and Andy Janda.

- On February 28, 2014, the first Appreciation Dinner was held by Schwenke-Baumgarten Funeral Home. The funeral home sponsored the dinner in order to recognize all the organizations and those members, to include the American Legion Honor Guard, who supported funerals. This dinner is now held annually.
- In 2015, the Schulenburg City Council approved the American Legion/VFW request to designate Texas Highway 77 through the city limits as "Fayette County Veterans Memorial Highway".

The Legion's annual fundraisers continued to be popular and largely supported by local citizens. The April 2015, Chicken Fried Chicken To-Go meal raised \$5133 and the March 30, 2016 To-Go meal raised \$7,090. The 2018 fundraiser was the most successful to date, with a net profit of \$7,371. The profits are shared with the Ladies Auxiliary.

The monies from these fundraisers helped support the high school scholarship program and the Boys' and Girls' State programs. The 2015 Boys' State attendees sponsored by the post were Javeon Lara and Rudolpho Garcia. In 2017, Boys State attendees were Miles Marburger, Garret LeBlue, and Leo Veloz. In 2018, Chris Herrera was selected to attend Boys State.

In June 2017, Eugene Krupala stepped down as post Adjutant after 24 years of service (1993-2017). He was recognized with a plaque presented by Commander Bob Heinrich for this achievement and his 38 years as a post member.

Also in 2017, Post 143 members and other local posts and veterans played a role in keeping a VA clinic in La Grange, TX. The VA was looking to consolidate the clinic to Bastrop, TX. The town hall meeting the VA held had such overwhelming participation that the VA decided to keep a La Grange VA clinic, but move it to St. Mark's hospital annex, to facilitate the care for veterans.



2014 Flag Retirement ceremony at SISD football field. L-R: Post 143 members James Hatfield, Robert Hranicky, Emil Pauler, and Harvey Oeding.

The members of Post 143 continued to support community Americanism programs during this decade. Post members attended monthly Americanism programs put on by the SISD elementary school, and participated in the annual Veteran's day programs at both SISD and St. Rose. The post members also presented programs for the

students on the proper respect and retirement of old American flags. In 2017, the Post presented a program at SISD on the Honors the post provides at the funerals of Veterans, and participated with the War Wagon in a program for the Boys and Girls Club at the Schulenburg Historical Museum.

Post 143 closed out 2018 with 153 members. Two members, David Stahl and James Stanzel, have 70 years of continuous membership, and Alvin Jack Klesel who died in November 2018, had reached 72 years of service.

As McBride Post 143 looks forward to the future, there are many uncertain times staring back at it.

- The U.S. continues to fight the war on terror abroad as well as at home.
- In October 2015, in light of the deteriorating security conditions, the U.S. reversed its withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and determined to maintain a combat presence in Afghanistan indefinitely.
- In 2016, we saw the return of a larger number of Special Operation Troops to Iraq (the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq began in December 2007 and was completed by December 2011) due to the persistent advances of ISIS.
- The US military has played a role in the Syrian Civil war since 2014, but a missile strike on the Shayrat Airbase conducted in April 2017, was the first time the US had become a deliberate direct combatant against the Syrian government. This marked the start of a more discernible US troop deployment to Syria in 2017 and 2018.



July 12, 2017, Robert Hranicky shows off the War Wagon as part of the Schulenburg Historical Museum's program for the Boys and Girls Club.

American Legion McBride Post 143 enters into the dusk of this decade preparing to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> year of service in 2019. As proven by its past 99 years of history, it will continue to serve its members, other veterans, and the community with the same unshakeable sense of duty, loyalty and country.



Thirty-three Post 143 members attended the November 1, 2016 monthly meeting. Seated (L-R): James Hatfield, Bob Heinrich, Emil Pauler, Eugene Krupala, Robert Hranicky, Leonard Korenek, Johnny Barton, Willy Schmidt. Standing (L-R): C.W. Leonard, Bill Bohlmann, Kenneth B. Berger, George Hranicky, Otto Kocian, Michele Prihoda, Harry Bartosch, Luis de la Garza, Pete Goedecker, Dennis Olsovsky, Jack Neisner, Delvin Dieringer, Donald Berger, Erwin Cernoch, Eugene Schramek, Wesley Holub, Allen Zak, Leonard Sumbera, Vernon Dittrich, Marvin Wick, Kenneth J. Berger, Henry Miksch, Dennis Muhlstein, Nathan Loth, Gene Gansky.



American Legion Honor Guard 2014 (L-R): James Brossmann, unknown, Nathan Loth, Johnny Barton, and Daniel Kutac

**ANNEX A**  
**OFFICERS - MCBRIDE POST NO. 143**

**COMMANDERS**

1919	Capt. A. Schlafli (Chairman, Organizing Committee)
1920	Joe Stelzig
1921-1922	Capt A. Schlafli
1923	Fred Kautske
1924	Fred Schindler; Joe Stahl
1925	Joe Stahl
1926-1927	Walter Schaefer
1928	E. H. Patton
1929	Ray Kusey
1930	Willie J. Schaefer
1930-1932	William A. Farek
1932-1934	C. T. Morene
1934-1935	E.J. Parma
1935-1938	Carl Huser
1938-1941	William A. Farek
1941-1945	Leon Wessels
1945-1947	Ed Kyle
1947-1952	H. R. Clark
1952-1954	Leon Wessels
1954-1956	Reinhardt J. Winkler
1956-1958	James D. Rothermel
1958-1959	Benno Nierlich
1959-1962	Melvin Drumm
1962-1965	Joe F. Krhovjak (Died in Office)
1965-1967	Herbert W. Rode
1967-1979	Edwin W. J. Janacek
1979-1987	Milton H. Gabler
1987-1990	Claude J. Marty Jr.
1990-1992	Edwin E. Orsak (Died in Office)
1992-1994	Royce O. Brauner
1994-1997	Elroy Dieringer
1997	Roy Bucek (Acting Commander)
1997-1999	Claude J. Marty Jr.
1999-2001	Roy D. Hill
2001	John Matula (Acting Commander)
2001-2013	James Hatfield
2013-Present	Robert Heinrich

**OFFICERS - MCBRIDE POST NO. 143 (CONTINUED)**

**FIRST VICE COMMANDERS**

1921-1922 Alfred Flocke  
1923 Emil Schulz  
1924 Alex Sengelmann  
1925-1927 Ray Kusey  
1928 Myke Klein  
1929 Willie J. Schaefer  
1930 William A. Farek  
1930-1932 Charles J. Blaschke  
1932-1934 Walter Schaefer  
1934-1935 Carl Huser  
1935-1936 R. M. Nicol  
1936-1937 Leon Wessels  
1937-1939 Alfred Gleckler  
1939-1942 Grover Gleckler  
1942-1943 Alfred Gleckler  
1943-1944 H. G. Citzler  
1944-1946 Wilburn Wagner  
1946-1947 H.R. Clark  
1947-1952 Leon Wessels  
1952-1954 August Runge  
1954-1955 Fritz Michalke  
1955-1957 Rudy Smrkovsky  
1957-1958 Frank Koller  
1958-1961 Rudolf J. Kallus  
1961-1962 Joe F. Krhovjak  
1962-1965 Melvin L. Drumm  
1965-1972 Louis J. Pavlas Jr.  
1972-1978 Leon F. Klesel  
1978-1979 Milton H. Gabler  
1979-1981 Herbert W. Rode  
1981-1988 Carl R. Warren  
1988-1989 Keenan Carstens  
1989-1993 Eugene J. Krupala  
1993-1994 Elroy Dieringer  
1994-1995 Keenan Carstens  
1995-1998 Roy Bucek  
1998-1999 Roy D. Hill  
1999-2001 John Matula  
2001-2003 Leo Dittrich Jr.  
2003-2005 Claude J. Marty Jr.  
2005-2007 James Brossmann  
2007-2009 John Matula  
2009-2013 James Brossmann  
2013-2017 James Hatfield  
2017-pres James Brossmann

**SECOND VICE COMMANDERS**

1923 Valentine Vlcek  
1924 Herbert Schulz  
1925-1927 E. J. Parma  
1927-1935 "GAP"  
1935-1936 Alfred Gleckler  
1936-1943 Charles J. Blaschke  
1943-1946 Emil Boening  
1946-1947 Charles J. Blaschke  
1947-1952 Rudy Smrkovsky  
1952-1954 Fritz Michalke  
1954-1964 Edwin Neumayr  
1964-1966 Leon F. Klesel  
1966-1967 Edwin W. J. Janacek  
1967-1973 Leon F. Klesel  
1973-1978 Emil J. Pesek  
1978-1979 Herbert W. Rode  
1979-1981 Robert H. Stoner  
1981-1984 Leroy Nelson  
1984-1989 Leroy Hoffmann  
1989-1991 Carl R. Warren  
1991-1994 Keenan Carstens  
1994-1997 Royce O. Brauner  
1997-2000 James Brossmann  
2000-2001 Eugene Ohneiser  
2001-2005 Walter Seidel  
2005-2006 John Matula  
2006-2007 Albert Olsovsky  
2007-2010 Cecil Riche  
2010-2013 Travis Killion  
2013-2014 Willy Schmidt  
2014-2015 Leonard Korenek  
2015-2017 James Brossmann  
2017-pres Jack Niesner

**THIRD VICE COMMANDERS**

1935-1936 Charles J. Blaschke  
1936-1937 Alfred Gleckler  
1937-1945 Charles Schenk  
1945-1946 Charles J. Blaschke  
1946-1947 Alfred Gleckler  
1947-1948 Arthur Strobel

OFFICERS - MCBRIDE POST NO. 143 (CONTINUED)

ADJUTANTS

ASSISTANT ADJUTANTS

1919-1922	F. W. Ueckert	1925	Henry Schaefer
1923	Rudolph J. Roeder	1926-1927	Fred Ueckert
1924	Melvin D. Dippel	1928	Alfred P. Moser
1924	Dr. G. O. Maxwell	1929	Rudolph J. Roeder
1925	Rudolph J. Roeder	1930-1932	Walter Schaefer
1926-1927	Alfred P. Moser	1932-1933	Fred Ueckert
1928	Henry J. Schaefer	1933-1937	"GAP"
1929	Alfred P. Moser	1937-1938	Fritz Michalke
1930	Melvin C. Dippel	1938-1939	Fred Ueckert
1930-1933	Rudolph J. Roeder	1939-1942	"GAP"
1933-1934	F. W. Ueckert	1942-1943	Joe Stahl
1934-1935	Alfred Flocke	1943-1944	Frank Koller
1935-1938	Rudolph J. Roeder	1944-1945	Reinhardt J. Winkler
1938-1939	Ed Kyle	1945-1946	Robert Vogt
1939-1943	Carl Huser	1946-1947	Leon Wessels
1943-1944	Alfred Flocke	1947-1952	Wilburn Wagner
1944-1946	Rudy Smrkovsky	1953-1954	Julius Kalich
1946-1947	Fred Strauss		
1947-1948	S. A. Cogan		
1948-1950	Arthur Strobel		
1950-1951	Arthur Strobel; W.A. Farek Jr.; Ivan Hrcncir		
1951-1952	Arthur Strobel		
1952-1953	Julius Kalich		
1953-1960	Joe F. Krhovjak		
1960-1961	Leo Jares		
1961-1962	Leo Jares; Charles Roeder		
1962-1986	Arthur J. Graf		
1986-1988	Louis F. Nitschke		
1988-1991	Dorothy Strunk		
1991-1993	W.A. Farek Jr.		
1993-2017	Eugene J. Krupala		
2017-pres	Dennis Muhlstein		

**OFFICERS - MCBRIDE POST NO. 143 (CONTINUED)**

**FINANCE OFFICERS**

1920-1922 Rudolph Seeberger  
1923 Melvin C. Dippel  
1924-1953 Emil Schulz  
1953-1955 W.A. Farek Jr.  
1955-1956 Leon Wessels  
1956-1960 Jerome J. Holub  
1960-1962 Arthur G. Graf  
1962-1979 Jerome J. Holub  
1979-1999 Emil W. Frietsch  
1999-2000 Royce O. Brauner  
2000-2001 Kimberly Jacobs  
2001-2006 Elroy Dieringer  
2006-2014 Jack Moretz  
2014-pres Willy Schmidt

**CHAPLAINS**

1921-1922 Henry Schaefer  
1923 Kessler Boettcher  
1923 Fred Schindler  
1924-1925 Walter Schaefer  
1926-1927 Joe Stahl  
1928 Willie J. Schaefer  
1929 Walter Schaefer  
1930-1931 E.H. Patton  
1931-1934 E.J. Parma  
1934-1935 Charles J. Blaschke  
1935-1939 Emil Holub  
1939-1942 W.H. Meyer  
1942-1943 F.W. Ueckert  
1943-1944 E.J. Parma  
1945-1947 Rev. A.C. Peterson  
1947-1948 C.A. Vogt Jr.  
1948-1950 Grover Gleckler  
1950-1952 Joe Stahl  
1952-1954 H. G. Citzler  
1954-1956 Julian Headley  
1956-1957 Rev. Ernest V. May  
1957-1961 Wilburn Wagner  
1961-1964 Rev. Fred Lehrer Jr.  
1964-1965 Benno Nierlich  
1965-1967 Rev. William Halata  
1967-1969 Rev. Thomas N. Ward  
1969-1979 Benno Nierlich  
1979-1981 Carl R. Warren  
1981-1984 Victor J. Frietsch  
1984-1992 Rev. William Halata  
1992-1994 Leroy Lebeda  
1994-2011 Louis F. Nitschke  
2011-2013 Robert Heinrich  
2013-2014 Leonard Korenek  
2014-pres Dennis Olsovsky

**OFFICERS - MCBRIDE POST NO. 143 (CONTINUED)**

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

1920 Fred Kautske  
1921-1922 Alex Sengelmann  
1923 Edwin D. McClean  
1924-1927 Willie J. Schaefer  
1928 Emil Solansky  
1929 Henry Gunderlach  
1930 Emil Solansky  
1931-1933 Alfred Gleckler  
1933-1934 Fritz Prilop  
1934-1935 Ed Janek  
1935-1939 Willie Heerssen  
1939-1941 Joe Pesek  
1941-1943 H.G. Citzler  
1943-1945 Joe Stahl  
1945-1946 Fritz Michalke  
1946-1947 Oscar Strobel  
1947-1950 Fritz Michalke  
1950-1951 Leon F. Klesel  
1951-1954 Fred E. Hightower  
1954-1958 Benno Nierlich  
1958-1959 Fred E. Hightower  
1959-1970 Norbert Mendel  
1970-1988 Erwin A. Dieringer  
1988-1999 Adolf A. Ulrich Jr.  
1999-2013 Stanley Correll  
2013-pres Robert Hranicky

**HISTORIANS**

1935-1936 Charles J. Blaschke  
1936-1937 Walter Schaefer  
1937-1938 Charles Friedrich  
1938-1939 H. R. Clark  
1939-1942 Walter Schaefer  
1942-1945 William A. Farek  
1945-1947 Joe Stahl  
1947-1948 Alvin J. Klesel  
1948-1949 Vernon Blohm  
1949-1952 Frank Koller  
1952-1956 Joe Rybak  
1956-1961 Bennie Hrcek  
1961-1964 James Stanzel  
1964-1989 Robert Vogt  
1989-1993 Norman C. Krischke  
1993-1995 W.A. Farek Jr.  
1995-2001 Keenan Corstens  
2001-2004 Roy Brauner  
2004-2005 Eugene Petter  
2005-2007 Denise Hatfield  
2007-2012 Donald Berger  
2012-pres Johnny Barton

**ASSISTANT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

2012-2013 Robert Hranicky  
2013-2015 Eugene Gansky  
2015-2018 Leonard Korenek

**OFFICERS - MCBRIDE POST NO. 143 (CONTINUED)**

**SERVICE OFFICERS**

1923 Valentine Vlcek  
1924 Walter Schaefer  
1928 Walter Schaefer  
1929-1931 Joe Stahl  
1931-1933 Frank Koller  
1933-1934 William A. Farek  
1934-1954 Ray F. Kusey  
1954-1956 William A. Farek  
1956-1975 Ray F. Kusey  
1975-1980 Leo T. Jahn  
1980-1981 Leroy Nelson  
1981-1991 Jerome J. Holub  
1991-1999 Jerome M. Sassin Sr.  
1999-2004 Oscar Dieringer  
2004-2013 Jim Miksch  
2014-pres Emil Pauler Jr.

**ASSISTANT SERVICE OFFICERS**

1928 Ray F. Kusey  
1947-1948 Rudy Smrkovsky  
1948-1952 Benno Nierlich

**CHILD WELFARE OFFICERS**

1937-1938 Ray F. Kusey  
1938-1941 Herman Kainer  
1941-1942 Robert Vogt  
1942-1948 H.G. Citzler  
1948-1952 Oscar Strobel

**LIAISON OFFICERS**

1931-1932 Alfred Gleckler

**ANNEX B**  
**Sons of the American Legion Officers**

The SAL Chapter was chartered on April 22, 1937, however previous records cannot be found. The chapter was reinvigorated in 2013 and new officers are listed here.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Feb 2013-Nov 2015	Commander	Travis Leihardt
	Vice-Commander	Randy Hatfield
	Adjutant	Thomas Hobbs
	Finance Officer	Patrick Chaloupka
	Historian	Robert Hranicky
	Chaplain	vacant
	Sergeant at Arms	Ricky Hatfield
Nov 2015-Jun 2016	Commander	Robert Hranicky
	Vice-Commander	Travis Leihardt
	Adjutant	Patrick Chaloupka
	Finance Officer	Thomas Hobbs
	Historian	Randy Hatfield
	Chaplain	Ricky Hatfield
	Sergeant at Arms	Tim Leihardt
Jun 2016-2018	Commander	Robert Hranicky
	Vice-Commander	Travis Leihardt
	Adjutant	Patrick Chaloupka
	Finance Officer	Thomas Hobbs
	Historian	Jim Havelka
	Chaplain	Warren Del Vecchio
	Sergeant at Arms	Herb Fish
Jun 2018-pres	Commander	Robert Hranicky
	Vice-Commander	Travis Leihardt
	Adjutant	Herb Fish
	Finance Officer	Thomas Hobbs
	Historian	Jim Havelka
	Chaplain	Warren Del Vecchio
	Sergeant at Arms	vacant

**ANNEX C**  
**Tri-County Legion Riders History and Officers**

The American Legion Riders (ALR) have been a part of the American Legion since 2006. Riders nationwide participate in the Legion Legacy Run which annually raises money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since September 11, 2001. Eligibility for the Legacy Scholarship fund was amended in 2015 to also provide scholarship funds for children of service members or veterans with a disability rating of 50% or more.

In November of 2012, the Tri-County Chapter of the American Legion Riders (ALR) was formed and initially chartered through American Legion Post 259 in Weimar, Texas. In January 2016, they moved their charter to American Legion Post 143 in Schulenburg, Texas. Membership in the Tri-County ALR is open to any member of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of the American Legion in the tri-county area - Fayette, Lavaca, and Colorado counties - who owns a motorcycle and enjoys riding. Spouses are also eligible for membership in the ALR even if they themselves do not qualify for membership in any of the three organizations listed above.

Since 2012 the Tri-County Legion Riders chapter has:

- Held monthly meetings and a monthly motorcycle ride.
- Hosted the 5th Annual American Legion Riders State Rally in May, 2014 in Weimar, Texas.
- Participated in every Legacy Ride since August 2013.
- Provided escorts each year for the participants from local school districts (Flatonia, Schulenburg, Columbus, LaGrange, and Weimar) to Boys State in Austin, TX and Girls State in Seguin, TX.
- Escorted the District and State Officers on their annual Coffee Tour through the Tri-County area.
- Conducted an annual fall fundraiser with ½ of the profits donated to a local nonprofit organization. The organizations who have received these monies are:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Spring 2014	Boys and Girls Club of Champion Valley
Fall 2014	Local Food Pantries in Schulenburg, Weimar and Columbus
2015	Habitat for Humanity
2016	The Texas Ramp Project

- Since 2015, hosted an annual Black Bean Run to raise funds for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship. In 2016, the chapter collaborated to combine the run with the annual Schulenburg Sausage Fest to better promote both events.
- In 2016, collaborated with the Sons of the American Legion Chapter to install curb posts to protect the Post 143 headquarters

building's front entrance handrails, and installed new tips on the facility's tables and chairs to protect the polished floor.

- In 2017 chapter conducted a ride to the VA Hospital in Temple, TX, to visit with veterans, sponsored a Girls' State attendee, and donated over \$2500 to local veterans in need and other veterans organizations.
- In 2018, the chapter participated in the first Annual Lone Star State Legacy Run (5 days over 1200+ miles). The local ALR chapter director, Mark Meysembourg was appointed by the ALR State Advisor to be the State Chief Road Caption for the State Legacy Run in 2019. Meysembourg was able to present a check totaling over \$24000 to the National Legacy Foundation from the Texas ALR Chapters.



Above Top Right: Post 143 member and Riders director, Mark Meysembourg, representing all the Texas Legion Riders, presents a \$24,000 donation check to the National Commander for the Legacy Fund Scholarships.

Above: The Tri-County American Legion Riders Post 143 escorted students from Schulenburg ISD and Columbus ISD to The University of Texas in Austin to attend Texas Boys State 2018.

**Tri-County Legion Riders Officers**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Jan-Dec 2013 & Jan-Dec 2014	Director	Mark Meysembourg
	Asst. Director	Jon Davidson
	Secretary	Thomas Hobbs
	Treasurer	Cindy Hobbs
	Road Captain	Herb Fish
	Sergeant at Arms	Travis Leihardt
Jan-Dec 2015	Director	John Davidson*
	Asst. Director	Mark Meysembourg
	Secretary	Jenna Leihardt
	Treasurer	Cindy Hobbs
	Road Captain	Herb Fish
	Sergeant at Arms	Travis Leihardt
* In June of 2015 Jon Davidson stepped down as director due to a job overseas. Mark Meysembourg stepped back in to the director position.		
Jan-Dec 2016	Director	Mark Meysembourg
	Asst. Director	Travis Leihardt
	Secretary	Jenna Leihardt
	Treasurer	Cinda Davidson
	Road Captain	Herb Fish
	Sergeant at Arms	Chris Geist
Jan-Dec 2017	Director	Mark Meysembourg
	Asst. Director	Travis Leihardt
	Secretary	Jenna Leihardt
	Treasurer	Cindy Hobbs
	Road Captain	Herb Fish
	Sergeant at Arms	Chris Geist
Jun 2018-Pres	Director	Mark Meysembourg
	Asst. Director	Travis Leihardt
	Secretary	Lisa Meysembourg
	Treasurer	Cindy Hobbs
	Road Captain	Herb Fish
	Sergeant at Arms	Bart Catlett
	Service Officer	Tom Hobbs

**ANNEX D**  
**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MCBRIDE UNIT 143 History**

The American Legion Auxiliary McBride Unit 143 was organized on November 12, 1931. The charter was applied for on November 24, 1931, and the auxiliary was chartered on January 2, 1932. The charter members were:

Mrs. August Mitchon	Mrs. Fritz Prilop
Mrs. Rudolph Seeberger	Mrs. Ig. Schindler
Mrs. Charles Sengelmann	Mrs. K. D. Sengelmann
Mrs. Frank Koller	Mrs. W. D. Cowan
Mrs. C. J. Blaschke	Miss Otilia Blaschke
Mrs. Victor Jordan	Miss Anelda Schenk
Mrs. Walter Schaefer	Miss Emmie Borchers
Mrs. Charles Schindler	Miss Hertha Gundelach
Mrs. W. A. Farek, Sr.	Mrs. A. M. Koehler
Mrs. A. B. Jordan	Mrs. Ed. Scheler
Mrs. R. J. Roeder	Mrs. W. R. Kueper
Mrs. Ray Kusey	Mrs. Alfred Flocke
Mrs. E. J. Jalufka	Mrs. Louise McBride
Mrs. Emil Holub	Mrs. Alex Sengelmann
Mrs. Richard Parma	Mrs. G. J. Schutte
Mrs. Murdock McKinnon	Mrs. H. M. Grahman
Mrs. Alfred Glecklar, Jr.	Mrs. Gabe Warren
Miss Hilda Brossman	Mrs. Emil Schulz, Jr.

On November 10, 2007, the auxiliary celebrated the 75th anniversary of their charter with an open house at the legion home.

Veterans/Military Support & Advocacy

Unit 143 began distributing poppies in 1921 and annually ever since on the weekend before Veterans Day in November. Volunteers set up at several of the businesses in town and hand out poppies. There is no specific amount to be collected for the poppies but a donation is certainly accepted. A portion of the money is sent to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas and the remaining funds are designated for the Child Welfare and Rehabilitation Fund.

With the post members, the auxiliary members attend the 9<sup>th</sup> District Convention. They supported the post when the 9<sup>th</sup> District Convention was held in Schulenburg in 2005 and in 2011.

The auxiliary along with the post hosts a Memorial Service at the May meeting each year to honor the members who died the previous year. The family of the deceased members are invited to share a catered meal and attend the memorial service.

Every year on Memorial Day the American Legion McBride Post 143, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 143, VFW Schulenburg Post 5623, and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 870 and Auxiliary sponsor a memorial service at Wolters Park to honor the fallen soldiers and Veterans in the

community. The auxiliary president participates in the presentation and laying of wreaths. In 2017, the ceremony was dedicated to the surviving Family Members. Lisa Meysembourg, an auxiliary member and mother to three service members herself, was the guest speaker.

### Family Support

Each month the Auxiliary Nursing Home Committee visits Legion and Auxiliary members in the assisted living, nursing home and retirement villas. Each person visited is given a bag of goodies or something special.

During National Senior Citizens Month, Fayette County honors the local senior citizens at its annual "Senior Citizen Day". Over the years, several Schulenburg auxiliary members have been honored: Patricia Marty (2010), Anna Janssen (2011), and Patricia Hranicky (2013).

At the December meeting each year, the Auxiliary and Legion enjoy the Christmas Party. The Auxiliary holds a raffle to help pay for the meal that is served. During the Christmas Party, auxiliary members are presented certificates and pins representing their years of membership.

### Youth Development

Unit 143 is an active supporter of the American Legion Girls State each summer. The unit selects local high school junior or senior girls to attend the event in Sequin where they learn how governance works at the city, county and state levels. The winners are invited to an auxiliary meeting at the end of the summer to give a presentation on their experiences at Girls State. Past local Girls State winners have been:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Winners</u>
2008	Tyra Thompson and Melany Eckhart
2009	Arnesia Powe and Kami Wagner
2010-2011	No Record
2012	Haley Little and Ashley Buchanek
2013	No Record
2014	Jacquelyn Hatfield and Jamie Scherbeh
2015	Alexis Acosta and Reagan Bludau
2016	Kylee Zapalac, Stormie Dunning, and Kayleigh Blaschke

The Auxiliary also participates in the McBride Post 143's Scholarship Program by donating money towards the scholarships given out each year.

### Fund Raising

To support the above programs and assist the post, the auxiliary is active in fundraising events.

Unit 143 holds an annual No-Bake-Sale to raise money where cash donations are accepted instead of baked items.

They hold a bake sale during the post's annual To-Go Supper Fundraiser and provide support where needed. The auxiliary receives 30% of the profits from this event.

When the American Legion Home burned down on August 29, 2009, the auxiliary did what it could to help raise money to rebuild the home. Besides supporting all the post fundraiser, the ladies held a fundraiser to re-equip the kitchen by selling "Little Caesar Pizza Kits".



Unit 143 Auxiliary Members who attended the November 1, 2016 meeting. Seated (L-R): Eileen Smith, Edith Kocurek, Verdean Schilhab, Peggy Fish. Standing (L-R): Patricia Marty, Cinda Davidson, Emma Nitschke, Gloria Foster, Dolly Hatfield, Jenna Leihardt, Patricia Hranicky, Amy Catlett.



Unit 143 Auxiliary Officers for 2016. Seated (L-R): Verdean Schilhab, Chaplain; Patricia Hranicky, 1st Vice President & Historian; Peggy Fish, President; Lisa Meysembourg, 2nd Vice President; Eileen Smith, Executive Committee; Standing (L-R): Patricia Marty, Executive Committee; Emma Nitschke, Executive Committee; Cinda Davidson, Treasurer; Jenna Leihardt, Secretary & Sergeant at Arms.

**OFFICERS - AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MCBRIDE UNIT 143**

**AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

1994-1997 Patricia Pavlik  
1998 Alice Frietsch\*  
1998-2005 Janet Machac  
2005-2008 Patricia Marty  
2008-2014 Lisa Hatfield  
2014-Pres Peggy Fish

\*Alice Frietsch had a stroke in July 1998 and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Frances Wendler was acting president until October 1998 when Janet Machac took over.

**1st VICE-PRESIDENT**

1994-1995 Helen Galipp  
1995-1998 No Records  
1998-2002 Frances Wendler  
2002-2003 No Record  
2003-2004 Patricia Marty  
2004-2005 No Record  
2005-2008 Lisa Hatfield  
2008-2014 Patricia Marty  
2014-Pres Patricia Hranicky

**2nd VICE-PRESIDENT**

1994-1995 Josephine Krupala  
1995-2000 No Records  
2000-2002 Lois Brauner  
2002-2003 No Record  
2003-2004 Lisa Hatfield  
2004-2005 No Record  
2005-2009 Janet Machac  
2009-2011 No Record  
2011-2013 Leona Lyons  
2013-2014 Peggy Fish  
2014-Pres Lisa Meysembourg

**SECRETARY**

1994-1995 Edith Kocurek  
1995-2000 No Records  
2000-2015 Edith Kocurek  
2015-Pres Jenna Leihardt

**TREASURER**

1994-1995 Janet Machac  
1995-2000 No Records  
2000-2001 Florence Farek  
2001-2002 Mae Dieringer  
2002-2003 No Record  
2003-2011 Florence Farek  
2011-2014 Dana Killion  
2015-2017 Cinda Davidson  
2017-pres Debora Behlen

**CHAPLAIN**

1994-1995 Rita Brossmann  
1995-2000 No Records  
2000-2002 Emma Nitschke  
2002-2003 No Record  
2003-Pres Verdean Schilhab

**HISTORIAN**

1994-1995 Frances Wendler  
1995-2000 No Records  
2000-2002 Elna Muehr  
2002-2003 No Record  
2003-2006 Lorine Guentert  
2006-2016 Georgia Moretz  
2016-Pres Patricia Hranicky

**SERGEANT AT ARMS**

1994-1995 Helen Machac  
1995-2000 No Records  
2000-2002 Lillian Orsak  
2002-2007 Dolly Hatfield  
2007-2008 Frances Wendler  
2008-2014 Dolly Hatfield  
2014-2015 Jenna Leihardt  
2015-2016 Dolly Hatfield  
2016-2017 Jenna Leihardt  
2017-Pres Gloria Foster

**OFFICERS - AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MCBRIDE UNIT 143 (Cont.)**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Members</u>
1994-1995	Lorene Gabler, Lillian Orsak, Ovella Stuckly
1995-2000	No Records
2000-2001	No Records
2001-2002	Rita Brossmann, Verdean Schilhab, Patricia Marty
2002-2003	No Records
2003-2004	Lois Brauner, Debora Behlen, Lillian Orsak, Rita Brossmann
2004-2005	No Records
2005-2009	LaVerne Seidel, Debora Behlen, Lillian Orsak
2009-2010	Lillian Orsak
2010-2011	Emma Nitschke
2011-2012	Eileen Smith, Emma Nitschke, Lillian Orsak
2012-2013	Emma Nitschke, Lillian Orsak, Elaine Schmidt
2013-2014	Lillian Orsak, Eileen Smith, Emma Nitschke
2014-2015	Debora Behlen, Lillian Orsak, Emma Nitschke
2015-2016	Lisa Hatfield, Debora Behlen, Emma Nitschke
2016-2017	Patricia Marty, Emma Nitschke, Eileen Smith
2017-2018	Amy Catlett, Emma Nitschke, Eileen Smith
2018-Pres	Amy Catlett, Emma Nitschke, Lisa Meysembourg

**ANNEX E**  
**TEXAS DISTRICT NO. 9 COMMANDERS**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>HOME TOWN</b>	<b>POST NO.</b>
1942-1943	H.M. Brouillette	Bellville	115
1943-1944			
1944-1945			
1945-1946	V.K. LaFarge		265
1946-1947			
1947-1949	J.H. Jones	Victoria	166
1949-1950	William A. Kline	Wharton	87
1950-1951	O.P. Austin Jr.	Victoria	166
1951-1953	R. Paul Martin		463
1953-1955	Ray A. Pierce	El Campo	251
1955-1957	Mac P. Copeland	Richmond	567
1957-1959	Melvin C. Motal	El Campo	251
1959-1961	Ben Reue	Rosenberg	271
1961-1963	James D. Rothermel	Ganado	346
1963-1965	Wesley F. Oberhoff	Needville	350
1965-1967	Jack V. Sidwell		265
1967-1969	Steve L. Fay	San Leon	291
1969-1970	Herbert F. Rode	Schulenburg	143
1970-1973	Alden C. Bailey	San Leon	291
1973-1975	Eugene E. Valigura	El Campo	251
1975-1977	C. E. "Jim" Greene	Texas City	89
1977-1979	Michael L. Reid	Alvin	129
1979-1981	Charles E. Sonnatag Jr.	Texas City	89
1981-1983	Henry S. Leake	San Leon	291
1983-1985	James E. Ulrey	Victoria	166
1985-1987	Kenneth R. Jan	Rosenberg	271
1987-1988	Milton H. Gabler	Schulenburg	143
1988-1989	Milton H. Gabler	Flatonia	94
1989-1991	Israel B. Tames	Victoria	166
1991-1993	Anthony W. Moore	Victoria	166
1993-1995	George Kirn	Blessing	649
1995-1997	Dennis Dobias	East Bernard	226
1997-1999	Bill Wren	Wallis	200
1999-2001	J.G. Lupe Garza	Richmond	567
2001-2003	Harold Remmert	Bellville	115
2003-2005	Earl Roberts	Bay City	11
2005-2007	Don Daft	Wallis	200
2007-2009	Robert Rohan	Needville	350
2009-2011	Tom Harlan	Rosenberg	271
2011-2013	Glenn Moody	Angleton	241
2013-2015	Jerome Kubala	Fayetteville	602
2015-2017	Bea Trevino	Angleton	241
2017-Pres	Charlie Miller	Hempstead	459

**ANNEX F**  
**2016 American Legion Eligibility Criteria:**

<b>Conflict</b>	<b>Eligibility Dates</b>	<b>Date Changed to Title 36</b>
WWI	Apr 6 1917-Nov 11, 1918	
WWII	Dec 7, 1941-Dec 31-1946	
WWII Merchant Marines	Dec 7, 1941-Dec 31-1946	1988-added eligibility
Korea	Jun 25, 1950-Jan 31, 1955	1955-added eligibility ending in 1953 1974-amended eligibility ending to 1955
Vietnam	Feb 28, 1961-May 7, 1975	1966-added eligibility beginning 1964 until end of hostilities. 1974-amended eligibility end date to 1973 1978-amended eligibility end date to 1975 1979-amended start date to Dec 1961 1998-amended start date to Feb 1961
Lebanon/Grenada	Aug 24, 1982-Jul 31,1984	1990-added eligibility
OP Just Cause Panama	Dec 20, 1989-Jan 31, 1990	1990-added eligibility
Persian Gulf/ War on Terrorism	Aug 2, 1990-date to be determined	1991-added eligibility