

Commander's Comments

This has been a trying time for our nation because of the tragedies of September 11 and the various other scares, both real and potential. Our thoughts are with all of those touched by the recent events, either directly or indirectly.

The security of our country has always been one of the primary interests of the American Legion; and National Security remains one of the standing committees of Legion organizations at every level.

The American Legion has always supported our men and women in uniform who are, or might be, in harm's way in the service of the United States. We must also keep in mind those of our friends and neighbors who have been, or will be, mobilized as members of the Reserves or National Guard. It is very heartening to see the tremendous outpouring of patriotism as evidenced by the display of flags and other items throughout the community.

On the brighter side, everyone seemed to have a great time at the cookout at Shadowbend Park on Thursday, October 18. We managed to conduct an abbreviated meeting, but the evening was mostly eating and drinking. Big THANK YOU's to Dave Lips for coordinating the event, the Auxiliary for a fine spread, and Frank Canfield and Winfred George for the musical entertainment.

Also at the last meeting, Dave Lips was elected Finance Officer and Joe Rammrath was

elected Sergeant At Arms – congratulations to both.

The rummage sale conducted on October 20 in the front yard of our Adjutant, Emery Heuermann, was extremely successful. This will enable the Post to continue with Boys State, Scholarship, and other such programs. A lot of work went into moving the donations, setting up, running the sale, then cleaning up afterward. We actually made more money on the Friday set up than on the Saturday sale day. Kudos to the Heuermann's, along with all of the other folks who helped out. Deserving of special recognition was Rudy Charest, Chuck and Mary Lou Suhr, and Pickens Jones.

There are a few activities coming up that are worthy of mention. On November 10, the Auxiliary will be distributing poppies, so we will need some Legionnaires to come out and assist. If interested, contact Chuck Suhr. On November 11, the Oak Ridge High School Air force Junior ROTC will conduct a Veterans Day Ceremony at Moorhead Stadium in Conroe. We would like to have as many Post members as possible, in attendance, at 10:00. On November 12, there will be a Veterans Day Ceremony at the Forum at 11:00, and I will be speaking at that affair. Finally, the Post will have its annual Thanksgiving dinner after the regular meeting on November 15. In addition, a Flag Disposal Ceremony will be conducted prior to the meeting, at 6:45. Many unserviceable flags have been turned in to the HomeFinder Center and the

various fire stations around The Woodlands.

Don't forget that in December The Post 305 Bugle is to be a Holiday issue, with stories, recipes, and fun ideas. Provide your input to Paul Brannum, Bugle editor, not later than November 24th.

George Bannon

Auxiliary Corner

The holiday season is upon us, and I cannot help but wonder where this millennium year has gone. The tragic events of recent months have brought all of us a sense of personal sadness and concern for the future. Yet, we must also take pause to remember that there is much for which we can still be thankful: family and friends to comfort and sustain us; veterans who gave so much and now depend on us for support; active-duty military personnel who are prepared to do whatever it takes to keep us free; and a National leadership dedicated to help us stay as safe as possible. I hope you will join us at our November 15th meeting for an evening of Thanksgiving.

Our Auxiliary fund-raising events are well underway. We had a successful snack stand at the Post rummage sale last month, and I want to extend special thanks to Liz Heuermann, Mary Lou Suhr, Pat Hagan, Lee Montgomery, June O'Leary, Colenia Canfield and all who worked so hard to set up and run the operation. Colenia has also been busy coordinating our Craft Show on November 3rd

and 4th. Thanks to everyone who gave up their weekends to “shop” other craft events in the area. Poppy Day will be Saturday, November 10th, and we expect a positive response from the community, as always. Many thanks to Lee Montgomery and Shirley Walters for coordinating this program for us, as well as to all who have volunteered to help distribute poppies. And thanks, too, Shirley, for handling our publicity!

Rosalie Fryer, Liz Heuermann and I attended the 7th District Convention in Willis on October 20th and 21st. It was an interesting and informative experience, and I plan to give my full report at our next meeting. Thanks to the Unit members who generously donated potato salad for the Convention luncheon.

Traditionally at this time of the year, we think about our blessings and remember those in our community who are less fortunate. Mary Lou Suhr will again coordinate our food donation to the Interfaith Food Pantry. Please bring canned goods and other non-perishables to the November meeting, so we can continue this worthwhile Community Service project.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to tell Pat Thornhill how often she is in our thoughts and how happy we are that she is back home again. Get back on your feet, girl! We miss you! I also want to extend the sympathy of all our members to Gene Watz on the passing of her brother. Everyone wished we could have helped make your burden lighter, Gene, and we are

grateful to have you and Joe back home again!

I did not have time this year to ask you to submit holiday crafts and recipes for publication in *The Bugle*. However, if you want to send them to me, I will make sure that copies are available to everyone at our November 15th meeting. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Sue Ellen

7th District Convention Report

The Fall 2001 7th District Convention was held in Willis on October 20 and 21. Eight of the 23 Posts in the 7th District were in attendance. George Bannon, Emery Heuermann, Kim Biggerstaff and Chuck Suhr attended from Post 305, with Kim in her official duty as District Adjutant.

The Saturday session included both a Memorial Service and a POW/MIA Ceremony. The Sunday sessions were dedicated to separate business meetings. Numerous speakers made presentations at both sessions, and they included: Mayor Ruth Castleschoudt, Clayton Hueske (candidate for Department Commander), Shorty Simmons (candidate for Department Vice Commander), 2nd Division commander Bill Caldwell, and 2nd Division President Janice Stafford.

The District will investigate the possibility of increasing both participation and

membership of the various small Posts in the 7th District.

A Fish Fry and Dance followed the Joint session on Saturday, and a luncheon was served after the business meeting on Sunday.

Recent Meetings Update

On the weekend before the September meeting, there was an Executive Committee meeting to plan our membership program for the year. Chuck Suhr will be coordinating those activities. The Post will conduct a membership drive, and awards will be presented to those members who achieve success in recruiting.

There were 21 members present at the September meeting at The Rayford Rd. facility. Motions were made and passed to purchase the necessary equipment to outfit a Post Color Guard, and to research the possibility of forming a fund-raising “stock purchase club”, chaired by John Sparks. Much of the meeting was devoted to planning of the October Rummage Sale.

In October, the Post held its inaugural Annual Cookout at Shawdowbend Park, preceded by a brief business meeting. There were 40 Post members, Auxiliary members and guests in attendance, and a good time was had by all. At the meeting, Dave Lips was elected Finance Officer, Joe Ramrath was elected Sergeant At Arms, and Keith Stelter was appointed Assistant Newsletter Editor.