



American Legion



POST 305 BUGLE

August 2006

Volume 2 Issue 7

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By now all 2006 members should have received a renewal notice from State for the 2007 year. While it is true that you still have until next June to join and retain your benefits and longevity, you don't have to wait that long. You can send in your renewal now and be done with it, and help the Post at the same time. Don't wait, do it now!

We had a great 4th of July Parade. Some Legion members though the crowd was larger than usual. The crowd was most appreciative of the American Legion. Most clapped and cheered as we walked/rode by. Many thanked us for our service. If you didn't come out to participate, I hope you watched. To me the Parade is what makes the 4th of July different from any other patriotic holiday and a vital part of the day



Our float with Legion and Auxiliary Members

Our August meeting will feature a presentation from our Boy's State participants. If you haven't met some of these members of the younger generation,

you should come out and visit with them. They are truly outstanding. We will also have another speaker plus refreshments provided by the Auxiliary. That's always worth the price of admission.

For God and Country,
Jim Bolin

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We voted not to participate in Legion Baseball this year as, due to a SNAFU, we didn't field a team. Hopefully next year we can. We also presented continuous years of service pins to a couple of people who weren't there last month, and two people that we had the wrong information about. We also approved the Executive Committee meeting minutes which provided for presenting a \$50 gift certificated to the owner of the trailer we used in the 4th of July Parade, and approved **Chuck Suhr** to dispose of collected American Flags in an informal manner.

Emery Heuermann presented a report from the Department Convention. The new Department Commander is Butch Sparks, who installed our officers last meeting. Post 305 won All Time High award for the 5th consecutive year, Hall of Fame award for exceeding our membership quota by a certain percentage, and the Bugle came in 2nd place in the newsletter contest. **George Bannon** won 1st place for the District 7 newsletter. Our membership goal for next year is 317.

AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAMS

Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation program has been established to constantly work for protection and preservation the rights and benefits to veterans earned through service to their country.

The Board of Veterans appeals specializes in affording representation to veterans and claimants seeking satisfactory resolution of benefit claim determinations made by local VA regional offices or VA medical centers.

National Field Services insures that veterans receive the quality of medical care they deserve and expect. It conducts field visits to individual VA medical centers and to network offices. The information gained is used to support VA&R activities in both congressional testimony and personal contracts with Members of Congress.

Military/Naval Discharge Review and Correction Boards are Legion representatives to provide assistance to former service members who seek upgrade in their less than honorable discharge of dismissal from the Armed Services. The Unit also assists veterans in obtaining decorations and medals through the various Armed Forces.

Persian Gulf Task Force was created out of concern for American's newest generation of wartime veterans, providing service to these veterans, their families and their advocates.

VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

THE HOUSTON VA MEDICAL CENTER REPORTS THAT THEY ARE ONE OF ONLY SIX SITES IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE ONLY VA MEDICAL FACILITY CONDUCTING A CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH TO COMPARE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND

SIDE EFFECTS OF TWO WIDELY USED MEDICATIONS FOR BIPOLAR DISORDER. THE STUDY FOCUSES ON BOTH VETERANS AND NON-VETERANS, OVER THE AGE OF 60 WHO ARE EXPERIENCING CHANGING MOODS AND WHO MEET STUDY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA PARTICIPANTS WILL BE COMPENSATED FOR THEIR TIME AND TRAVEL. THE RESEARCH STUDY HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE. FOR A FREE CONFIDENTIAL BIPOLAR SCREENING OR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 800-553-2278, EXT 2247.

2. A LEADING CARDIOLOGIST, DR. DAVID PANIAGUA HAS JOINED THE HOUSTON VA MEDICAL CENTER AS CO-DIRECTOR OF THE CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION LABORATORY. THE LABORATORY INCORPORATED A TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED X-RAY SYSTEM FOR VIEWING DETAILED IMAGES OF A PATIENTS CORONARY STRUCTURE. PHYSICIANS USE THIS EQUIPMENT TO SEE AND WORK IN THE HEART AND ARTERIES, MAKING DIAGNOSES, OPENING BLOCKED VESSELS, AND DISOLVING BLOOD CLOTS. THE NEW X-RAY OFFERS SHARPER AND MORE DETAILED X-RAY IMAGES THUS SPEEDING UP DIAGNOSES, REDUCING RADIATION DOSES AND OFFERS HEART PATIENTS A SAFE AND EFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO SURGERY.

3. A SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIALIST, DR. THOMAS KOSTEN, HAS JOINED THE STAFF OF THE HOUSTON VA MEDICAL CENTER. IN 2003 AND 2004 IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT 8% OF MALE VETERANS 18 AND OLDER WERE DEPENDENT ON ALCOHOL OR DRUGS, THUS MORE LIKELY TO HAVE RECURRING SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

AND DISORDERS THAN OLDER VETERANS. THE SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCE REHABILITATION (SDRS) SECTION IS TRULY NEEDED. THE SDRS IS AN OUT PATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAM (APPROX 6 MONTHS OR LONGER IF NEEDED) THAT WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE VA HEALTH CARE AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

4. THE TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION(TVC) IS A STATE AGENCY AND AN ADVOCATE FOR TEXAS VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND SURVIVORS. THE SVC PROVIDES FREE QUALITY SERVICE BY ASSISTING VETERANS AND THEIR SURVIVORS WITH CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION, PENSION AND APPEALS, AND WITH PARTICIPATION IN MANY OTHER VA PROGRAMS. THE TVC ALSO HELPS VETERANS WITH STATE BENEFITS. THE TVC HAS EMPLOYEES IN ALL TEXAS VA HOSPITALS, OUT PATIENT CLINICS, AND VA REGIONAL OFFICES. FOR THE HOUSTON TVC OFFICE CALL 254-299-9950 AND FOR THE TVC HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTIN CALL 512-463-5538.FOR MORE INFO AND LISTINGS CALL 1-800-252-8387 OR VISIT www.tvc.state.tx.us.

5. STILL NO WORD ON THE LOCATION OF THE CONROE VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC SCHEDULED FOR AN EARLY 2007 OPENING. I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO GET THE NAMES OF THE SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE. IF I DO I'LL GET YOU MORE INFORMATION. AT THE END OF 2005 THERE WERE 113,000 VETERANS ENROLLED AT THE HOUSTON VA MEDICAL CENTER. THAT NUMBER IS INCREASING RAPIDLY, WITH MANY OF THEM FROM THE CONROE CATCHMENT AREA. THERE ARE 1,755,000 VETERANS IN TEXAS WITH

330,000 IN THE HOUSTON AREA. THESE NUMBERS ARE INCREASING DAILY. NOTICE: FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KAY LEE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER AT 1-936-539-7842 OR BY EMAIL VETSVC@MONTGOMERY.TX.US

Dutch Dettinger
Veteran's Advocate

Post Activities

Day	Date	Activity	Location
Mon	Aug 14	Ex. Comm.	Office
Thur	Aug 17	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd
Thur	Aug 24	National Conv.	Salt Lake City
Mon	Sep 18	Ex. Comm.	Office
Thru	Sep 21	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd.

Post Officers

Commander Jim Bolin 281-251-2352
1st Vice Cdr. Everett Ison 281-298-9524
2d Vice Cdr. Chuck Suhr 936-273-2688
Adjutant Brad Walls 281-367-0562 W
Finance Off. Dave Lips 281-362-1390
Service Off. Dayton Denton 832-928-6054
Sgt.-at-Arms Harlen Thornhill 936-788-1878
Chaplain M. Warren Gartman 930-273-6092
Judge Ad. George Bannon 281-298-1588
Historian Emery Heuermann 281-362-9193 W
Ex. Comm. Pickens Jones 281-367-7631
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