



American Legion

POST 305 BUGLE

December 2006

Volume 2 Issue 11

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Read This, it's important! Dues are going up to \$31 effective December 15, 2006. If you haven't paid your 2007 dues yet, do so before the deadline. If you haven't paid your 2006 dues and want to retain your years of service, pay both 2006 and 2007 prior to the deadline. You will get another reminder from State after January 1, 2007, but by then the dues will be \$31. **Do it now!**

We have decided to publish The Bugle bi-monthly and mail it. That way, everyone for whom we have an address will receive a newsletter. We will do this as long as we can afford it. If I have something important to say, I'll publish an interim Bugle, like this one on the off months for the email members.

What I have that is important this month is that dues go up to \$31 next year. Our cut-off to get your renewal into State is December 15th. There will be no "check's in the mail". We must have the money by the 15th.

Next month, Jason Theroit, author and historian will be speaking to us about a WWII battle. Let's have a good audience for him.

For God and Country,
Jim Bolin

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We approved the following changes to the Constitution.

Constitution

Article V, Section 7, which reads: "In case of vacancy in any office for any cause, the said vacancy shall be filled at any regular meeting provided at least five (5) days notice of such election has been given to the members",

is changed to read: "In case of vacancy in any office for any cause, the said vacancy shall be filled, on an interim basis, with an appointment by the Executive Committee. The permanent replacement will be made at the next regularly scheduled election of the Post, unless said election was scheduled more than six (6) months hence, in which case, an election will be conducted at the next regularly scheduled Post meeting, provided at least five (5) days notice of such election has been given to the members."

Explanation: This gives the Post more latitude in maintaining a full complement of the Executive Committee positions when vacancies occur, while providing reasonable limitations on the Commander and Executive Committee as a way of protecting the interests of the membership, as a whole.

We also had a great Turkey supper with all the trimmings furnished by Kroger and **Dayton Denton.**

AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAMS

As a member of the American Legion you will receive the American Legion Magazine at no additional cost. This colorful monthly issue is packed full of

general-interest features and updates on veterans' benefits to keep you informed of changes that affect you as a veteran.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 297 members paid for 2007. Our goal for 2007 is around 317, so we are all most there. I think we even get a reward if we are 100% by December 31. We could make that with your help.

VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM WHICH WAS STARTED 1 JANUARY 2006 WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM, BUT FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO SIGN UP LARGE NUMBER OF PATIENTS WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE. THIS INCLUDED THOUSANDS OF MILITARY RETIREES ALREADY ENROLLED IN TRICARE FOR LIFE. THE FIRST THE RETIREES HEARD ABOUT IT WAS WHEN THEY GOT BILLED FOR THEIR DRUGS. THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SAYS THAT THE TRICARE MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO DISENROLL THEMSELVES AND REENROLL BACK IN TRICARE. MY OPINION: A GOOD EXAMPLE OF OUR TAXES AT WORK. THE DEPARTMENTS OF DEFENSE AND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ARE REFUSING TO WORK TOGETHER, SO THE MILITARY RETIRE SUFFERS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IS ALREADY WORKING ON WAYS OF LOWERING THE COSTS OF DEFENSE AND VETERANS' HEALTH CARE. THE HEALTH CARE COSTS ROSE TO \$38 BILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 2006. 1st CHOICE IS THEIR OLD STANDBY. THAT IS TO RAISE COSTS OF DRUGS,

CHARGE ENROLLMENT FEES, AND CHARGE CO-PAYS FOR ALL MILITARY RETIREES UNDER 65. THIS IS IN LEIU OF GETTING DRUG COMPANIES TO LOWER THE COST OF DRUGS, AND HURTING THEIR FEELINGS... 2nd CHOICE IS TO COMPLETELY RE-DO THE VA SYSTEM IN REGARDS TO WHO WILL RATE VA HEALTH CARE. SOME OF THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES ARE: TREATMENT FOR ONLY 100% DISABLED OR TREATMENT FOR ONLY COMBAT WOUNDED, LUMP SUM DISABILITY PAYMENT WITH NO CHANCE TO RAISE THE AMOUNT AS YOUR CONDITION WORSENS, REVAMPING THE MILITARY RETIREE PAY SYSTEM AND A FEW OTHER BAD CHANGES. MY OPINION: THE PRIME MOVER OF THESE CHANGES IS OUR OLD ENEMY, THE PENTAGON'S TOP DOCTOR AND FORMER DOD SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WILLIAM WINKENWERDER JR. HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO FIGHT OUR WARS FOR US BY MAKING THE VETERAN PAY FOR THEM FOR 4 YEARS. HE HAS THE DOD AND THE PENTAGON'S BLESSING. HE ALSO HAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEES. BUYER (R-IND) RECOMMENDING THE CHANGES. ISN'T IT GREAT TO HAVE THE VETERANS' AFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AGAINST US? CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS AND LET THEM KNOW YOUR OPINIONS. FROM THE ARMED FORCES NEWS: (a) JUST PRIOR TO THE HOUSE ADJOURNING LAST MONTH, THEY PASSED THEHOUSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL" WHICH SHORTED THE DOD HEALTH PROGRAM BY \$735 MILLION BY REJECTING AN AMMENDMENT BY

CHET EDWARDS (REP-WACO TX). WITH THEIR ACTIONS THE DOD HEALTH SYSTEM WILL RUN SHORT OF FUNDS AGAIN IN FISCAL YEAR 2007. MY OPINION: THEY HAD TO HURRY HOME TO RUN THEIR RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGNS. THE SENATE STILL HAS TO VOTE ON IT. MAYBE THEY WILL DO US RIGHT ON THE SUBJECT. (b) THE VA HAS ISSUED A WARNING OF A SCAM THAT TARGETS VETERANS WHO HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED THAT THEIR VA DATA WAS STOLEN. DEFRAUDERS SENT MASS E-MAILS ASKING VETERANS FOR PERSONAL INFORMATION LIKE CREDIT CARD NUMBERS, BANK ACCOUNT NUMBERS, PASSWORDS AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS. ONE OF THE E-MAILERS IS abuse@vba.va.gov. THIS IS NOT A VALID V.A. E-MAIL ADDRESS. IT IS FROM SOMEWHERE IN ASIA. BEWARE. (c) THE VA IS STILL HAVING PROBLEMS GETTING PATIENTS IN FOR THEIR FIRST MEDICAL EXAM. IN APRIL 2005 THERE WERE 15,200 WAITING, NOW THE NUMBER IS 30,475. THE NUMBER OF DISABILITY CASES AWAITING AJUDICATION HAS INCREASED TO OVER 372,000. THIS COULD BE FATAL FOR THE AGING VETERAN AND THE RETURNING MIDDLE EAST VETERAN. MY OPINION: THE REASON FOR THIS IS THE SHORTAGE OF FUNDS AND TRAINED VA PERSONNEL. (d) CONGRESS STILL IS ON THE LINE TO DECREASE MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT RATES BY ABOUT 5%. 45% OF THE MEDICARE DOCTORS HAVE STATED THEY WILL HAVE TO STOP ACCEPTING NEW MEDICARE PATIENTS IF THIS HAPPENS. MY

OPINION: THIS WILL HURT THE OLDEST AND POOREST PATIENTS AND PUT THE LOAD ON THE CITIES AND STATES. TRICARE PATIENTS ALSO WILL BE AFFECTED. ONCE AGAIN, THOSE THAT CAN LEAST AFFORD IT, WILL SUFFER THE MOST. COMMITTEE HAS NO POWER, SO IT'S STILL UP TO CONGRESS TO DEFEAT THIS CHANGE. CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS SOON AND TELL THEM HOW YOU FEEL.

Dutch Dettinger

Post Activities

Day	Date	Activity	Location
Mon	Dec 18	Ex. Comm.	Office
Thur	Dec 21	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd
Mon	Jan 15	Ex Comm.	Office
Thur	Jan 18	Membership Meet	Rayford Rd
Thur	Jan 18	Chili Cook-Off	At Meeting
Feb	1-4	State Mid-Winter Conf.	Austin, TX

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 Carl Smith 713-252-7884
 Chaplain M. Warren Gartman 930-273-6092
 Judge Ad. George Bannon 281-298-1588
 Historian Emery Heuermann 281-362-9193
 Ex. Comm. Pickens Jones 281-367-7631
 Ex. Comm. Mike Sorich
 Newsletter Jim Bolin 281-251-2352