



American Legion



POST 305 BUGLE

March 2009

Volume 5 Issue 3

COMMANDER'S CORNER

I have asked **Carl Smith** to chair the Nominating Committee for next year's slate of officers to run the Post. When he comes around to ask you to participate, give him a thoughtful answer. The Nominating Committee will present its nominations at the April membership meeting. The floor will be open for additional nominations before voting for the officers at our May meeting. The new officers will be installed at our June meeting. We need some new people to step up and take some of the jobs of the current officers. Most have been serving for several years and would welcome the opportunity to take a break.

Our Birdies for Charity fund raiser is off to a good start. **Dave Lips** distributed forms to record our guesses upon. We have till the end of March to collect the guesses. Generally there are about 40 people who guess the correct number of birdies. All will receive a prize and a drawing of those 40 people will determine the grand prize winner, perhaps a vacation trip. If you will not be at the meeting and would like a birdie chance, call Dave Lips at 281-362-1390. All money donated will be returned to the Post; however, not to the donor.

We would like to plan a non-business outing at the baseball park on a Sunday afternoon. We would hope those of you who are unable to get to the meetings might take this time to come out and meet some of the members of Post 305. There is more about this under

the 2nd Vice Commander's report. Get your name into the mix so we can order the tickets early and get good seats.

Jim Bolin

For God and Country

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We began the meeting with a joint session with the Auxiliary to memorialize the Four Chaplains who went down with the *Dorchester* because they gave their life vests to other soldiers.

The finance officer, **Dave Lips**, reported a General Fund of \$13,563.36 and an Allocated fund of \$20,557.84. The General Fund is used to pay the every-day expenses while the allocated fund has allocations for a post home, veteran affairs and rehab (VA&R) among others.

At the recent Mid-Winter Conference, the method for establishing the membership goals for 2009-2010 was reported. The post goal for next year will be the number of names on the post roster who paid for 2008 and 2009. For our Post that will be about 550. Our goal this year is 416. The estimated 134 difference are people who have paid for 2008 but did not pay for 2009. The goal next year would be a 32% increase over this year if we allow those 134 people to slide into next year without being contacted by someone in the Post. So, we will need to contact everyone who paid in 2008 and determine if they wish to remain a member or not. If not, we drop them from the rolls. That will be our goal for the next

several months, contacting our membership, by phone or in person. We need help from everyone, not just the Executive Committee to accomplish the above task. We will have a meeting at 7 p.m. on March 11th at the Advantage Mailing office to assign names to be contacted. If you can help, please be present.

Chuck Suhr, the 2d Vice Cdr. Noted that we have room in our storage facility for more goods to sell at the rummage sale. He also is attempting to organize a trip to an Astro game on a Sunday afternoon in July. Seat price would be about \$20. If you would be interested in attending a game as a group with other members let Chuck Suhr know. His phone is 936-273-2688. We already have almost 20 people to attend.

Dayton Denton, Service Officer, spoke of the U.S. Vets program and our plan to make up baskets of supplies for a homeless vet as he/she established a new home. The home would be provided through the U.S. Vets program. Our plan received a huge boost when we received 25 boxes of supplies that a dance group collected for us. These supplies should go far in reaching our goal of furnishing 60 baskets for a year.



Repackaging supplies from dance group
Dayton Denton in background Chuck Suhr in front

We passed a motion to donate \$100 to the Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance Fund. The Post has used this fund in at least two instances to secure money for veterans with children in need of aid.

Our speaker for the meeting, **Paul Lance** of U.S. Vets, was unable to make the meeting. We will try to reschedule him.

We added two new members who are transferring to our membership, **James Lacalli**, and **Robert Bensfield**. Please spend some time with these new members when you see them.

We also presented the Legionnaire of the Year award to **Dave Lips**, our Finance Officer for many years. Additionally, Dave plans the Post Picnic in October, runs the Birdies for Charity fund raiser and is a member of the Post Executive Board. Congratulations to Dave.



Dave Lips (on Left) receiving LOY award

VETERANS ADVOCATE

IMPORTANT	PHONE	NUMBERS
Houston VA Regional Center		1-713-383-7842
Montgomery County Veterans Service Office		1-936-539-7842
Your Legislators (Toll Free)		1-877-762-876, 1-888-762-6780

VA Launches New Health Facilities

On June 26, 2008 Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake announced plans to create 44 new community-based

outpatient clinics to bring the world-class health care of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) closer to home for veterans in 21 states. VA's plans calls for five new facilities in Texas.

The new clinics, scheduled to be activated over the next 15 months, will increase the VA's network of independent and Community-based clinics to 782, an increase of more than 100 in five years.

VA's planned sites for new Outpatient Clinics in Texas are Katy, Lake Jackson, Richmond, Tomball and El Paso County. For a full list of all the clinics planned, visit the VA website at www.va.gov.

New GI Bill

On June 30, 2008, President George W. Bush signed into law H.R.2642, Supplement Appropriations Act 2008 that authorizes a new chapter of educational benefits for many post 9/11 veterans and service members. Chapter 33 of the new GI Bill (also referred to as the "Post 9/11 GI Bill") makes many sweeping and dramatic changes to veterans' educational benefits since the original GI Bill was first signed into law in 1944. The new benefits do not go into effect until August 1, 2009.

Complete up-to-date detailed information regarding the current Montgomery GI Bill and the Post 9/11 GI Bill may be obtained on the VA website at www.GIBill.va.gov. This site also allows you to sign-up to receive e-mail notifications as new information become available.

Four New VA Vet Centers in Texas

Combat veterans will receive readjustment counseling and other assistance in four new Department of veteran Affairs (VA) Vet Centers in Texas. They will be located in Bexar, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant counties. Across the country, 35 additional

communities will develop Vet Centers by fall 2009.

Vet Center services are available at no cost to veterans who experienced combat during any war era. They are staffed by small teams of counselors, outreach workers and other specialists, many of whom are combat veterans. The Vet Center program was established in 1979 by Congress, recognizing that many Vietnam veterans were still having readjustment problems.

A complete list of the VA Vet Centers in Texas is available on the Texas Veterans Commission website at www.tvc.state.tx.us.

Texas Veterans Commission

AUXILIARY NEWS

May 2nd, 2009 is The American Legion Auxiliary Craft Fair at the Super Walmart on Sawdust road. We need people to make crafty items for our table to sell. We also need help to do the work required to put on the craft show. I am hoping you will be willing to volunteer in some way so all the work won't be done by a couple of people.

To honor our veterans at Valentine's Day, we provided trays of cookies to the VA Clinic at Conroe.

The Unit members who attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Austin in January had the opportunity to visit the new Legion/Auxiliary building and attend the ribbon cutting ceremony. It is a building well suited to house our state headquarters for many years. If you are in Austin, make it a stop on your trip.

At our monthly meeting we held a joint Four Chaplains service with the Post members. The service was emotional in remembering those four chaplains who gave their lives that others might live.

The Unit voted to give \$50 to the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, \$25 to help support the USO organization at Bush International Airport and \$25 to the American Legion Dept. of Texas to go towards cancer research.

Our next month meeting is March 19, 2009 at the Rayford Community Center at 7 p.m.

Mary Bolin
Unit President

POST POLICY

American Legion caps will not be worn while eating. Most Posts will fine violators \$1 or more.

VETCAM INFORMATION

Because You Can't Always Be There, The American Legion is making it easier for you, your friends and your loved ones to stay in touch. They are offering you VetCam: Free one-on-one video conferencing – enabling you to talk face to face with friends and family across town or overseas, one-on-one, or with several people at a time. You decide.

Members of The American Legion, as well as members of the United States Armed Forces (active duty, Reserve and National Guard), their families and friends are welcome to use this complimentary technology to remain connected with those people most important to you. To sign up to use VetCam go to <http://vetcam.ncbintl.com>.

AMERICAN LEGION LICENSE PLATES

American Legion license plates are now available to all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL Members in the Department of Texas.

The Cost for the plates will be your regular yearly vehicle registration fee and \$30 for the Plate. For those that want personalized

plate it will be the regular fee plus \$30 for plate plus \$40 for the personalization.

When you purchase the plate, \$22 of the \$30 will come back to the Texas American Legion Development Foundation to be used in the youth scholarship programs.

A sample of the plate will be available at the next membership meeting.

Post Activities

Day	Date	Activity	Location
Mon.	Mar. 16	Ex. Meeting	Office
Thur.	Mar.19	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd.
Mon.	Apr. 13	Ex. Meeting	Office
Thur.	Apr. 16	Membership Meet	Rayford Rd.
Fri.	Apr. 17	Set-Up Sale	Robinson Rd.
Sat.	Apr. 18	Rummage Sale	Robinson Rd.
Sat.	Apr. 18	District 7 Convention	Magnolia

Post Officers

Commander Jim Bolin 281-251-2352
jpb20006@sbcglobal.net
1st Vice Cdr. Everett Ison 281-298-9524
eison01@sbcglobal.net
2d Vice Cdr. Chuck Suhr 936-273-2688
chuckandmarylou@yahoo.com
Adjutant Pickens Jones 281-367-7631
pickensjones@usa.net
Finance Off. Dave Lips 281-362-1390
dave@bettylips.com
Service Off. Dayton Denton 832-928-6054
whselfstorage1@yahoo.com
Sgt.-at-Arms Joe Hammond 281-292-7705
ejoehammondhh@hotmail.com
Chaplain Sam Maiolo 281-355-8022
sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net
Judge Advocate George Bannon 281-298-1588
gabannon1@comcast.net
Historian Mickey Fussell 281-367-7115
v.h.fussells@gmail.com
Ex. Comm. Jerry Mulvihill 281-353-5574
Mulvihill1954@yahoo.com
Ex. Comm. Harlen Thornhill 936-273-2287
Harlen@consolidated.net
Bugle Editor Jim Bolin 281-251-2352