



American Legion



POST 305 BUGLE

July 2009

Volume 5 Issue 7

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Legionnaires',

I would like to thank you on the vote of confidence that you have instilled in me as you newly elected Commander. I would also like to thank our Past Commander Jim Bolin who has been the Commander of the Post for a little more than 3 ½ years. His leadership has proven invaluable as we have met the challenges head on and we attained those challenges with our head up high. Thank you Jim and we salute you.

This year we face several challenges ourselves as we begin our year. The most significant challenge is membership. The new goal setting of 486 members will be the most. I stated at our last meeting that I am open to all suggestions and I want to hear from you.

I have committed to getting our Legion Riders and also continue to entertain in starting the Son's of the Legion in our post. We all agreed that it was worthwhile and we should support this effort.

We need to communicate more often and in a better media avenue. Email is great, but if we do not have an email address to get the newsletter out, then we have omitted well over half of the membership. I mentioned a newsletter mailed quarterly, but this will need approval of the membership as this will be an additional expense that has not been budgeted for. We will be evaluating this and make sure that it bring a good return on the investment. I have always

believed in fiscal responsibilities and making sure that all monies spent is accounted for.

I have also committed to more social activities either at our meetings and other venues. We entertained an afternoon picnic at Northshore Park in The Woodlands that coincided with the 'Concert in the Park' series. This was great as we had a chance to kick back and relax.

As I close, I cannot thank you again for the opportunity to serve you as your Commander.

For God and Country,
Everett Ison

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We began the meeting of June 18th by determining that we had a quorum, 12 members in good standing. Actually we had 26, but we always have room for more.

The finance officer, **Dave Lips**, reported a General Fund of \$11,588.03 and an Allocated fund of \$20,609.33. The General Fund is used to pay the everyday expenses while the allocated fund has allocations for a post home, veteran affairs and rehab (VA&R) among others.

At the time of the Department Convention, we had 375 members. Our goal was 413, so we failed to meet our goal for the first time in several years. We were assigned and even more ambitious

goal of 486 for the next year. We will need everyone's help in contacting all our members to get them to renew their membership for the year 2009-2010. You should have already gotten your first notice from National. Please fill out the card now before you lose it and send it in.

The 2d Vice Cdr. Elect, Brad Trefz discussed plans for the 4th of July parade.

Service Officer Dayton Denton announced plans to pack 10 move-in boxes for the U.S. Vets when a homeless vet moves into a new apartment for the first time. He is also collecting paper backed books to send to service members for Operation Paperback.

We approved giving \$100 to the North West Chapter of the Autism Society of America.

Commander Bolin presented 5 year awards to John Morphis and Carl Smith accepted a 5 year award for his son Anthony Rico. Brad Trefz received a 10 year award. Lacy Homan also qualified for a 10 year award, but was absent. A 20 year award was presented to George Bannon. Pins from the World War II Memorial were presented to Bob Jackson and Art Magill. A certificate for 20 years of membership was given to George Bannon. Certificates of appreciation were given to Pickens Jones, Mickey Fussell, Chuck Suhr, Dayton Denton, and George Bannon.

A plaque was awarded to Everett Ison for winning First Place in the Chili Cook-off.

Dave Lips was awarded the Legionnaire of the Year plaque.

Everett Ison presented a plaque to Commander Bolin to express appreciation for his service to the Post as Commander for the past four years.

Past Division Commander George Bannon inducted the new officers for the Post for the year 2009-2010. They were: Cdr., Everett Ison; 1st Vice Cdr. Kim Biggerstaff; 2nd Vice Cdr. Brad Trefz; Adjutant, Pickens Jones; Chaplain, Sam Maiolo; Finance Officer, Dave Lips; Sgt-at-Arms, Robert Jones; Historian, Mickey Fussell; Service Officer, Dayton Denton; Judge Advocate, Emery Heuermann; Ex.-Comm.-at-Large, Jim Bolin & Syd Ulmer.

The next membership meeting is July 16th at 7 p.m. at Rayford Road Community Center.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The Department Convention in McAllen Texas was held the last weekend in June. Attending from the Post were George Bannon, Jim Bolin, and Kim Biggerstaff. During the Convention the Post won the Hall of Fame award for 2008 with 423 members for 2008. The Bugle won 2d Place award for Posts above 400 members and the Post History placed third in the Post History Contest.

The Convention elected Officers for the State for next year.

VETERANS ADVOCATE

IMPORTANT	PHONE	NUMBERS
Houston VA Regional Office		1-713-383-7842

Montgomery County Veterans Service Office		1-936-539-7842
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Your Legislators (Toll Free)		1-877-762-876, 1-888-762-6780
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The 81st Texas Legislature recently passed new legislation (SB93 and SB847) which amends the Hazlewood Exemption Program for veterans, their spouses and their children. These changes are effective beginning in the fall 2009 semester. Although this legislation has not yet been signed by the Governor, we don't anticipate any problems.

Hazlewood Changes

- Expands eligibility to spouses of veterans of Armed Forces or Texas National Guard or Air National Guard members who are killed or died while serving, MIA, or became disabled, etc. Spouses must be TX residents for the term or semester for which they use the benefit. Children of these veterans remain eligible.
- **Extends eligibility to veterans who declared Texas as their home of record, or entered the service in Texas (even if they were not TX residents at the time of entry), as well as veterans who are residents. Eliminates the reference to "citizen of Texas."**
- **Allows veterans to transfer their unused Hazlewood hours (up to 150 SCH) to a child (stepchild, biological, adopted, or dependent for income tax purposes); eligible child must be a TX resident who is 25 years of age or younger, and make satisfactory academic progress toward a degree, certificate or continuing education program.**
- Allows public technical institutions and public state colleges to pass the cost of fees for programs having "extraordinary

costs (e.g. flight training) to students. Previously, only community/junior colleges were permitted to charge students for the fees associated with high-cost programs.

- **Clarifies that the Hazlewood exemption can be used for the payment of tuition, fees, dues, and other required charges.**

- Clarifies that when determining a student's eligibility to stack federal and state veterans' benefits, the only federal benefits to be considered are those that can only be used for the payment of tuition and fees. Federal benefits that can be used for both living expenses and tuition and fees should NOT be included in the calculation. In other words, fed education benefits for housing, books, etc. should not be taken into consideration.

Here is a link to the Texas Higher Education Coordination Board website where veterans can access information and apply online for the benefit: <http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/index.cfm?ObjectID=6D1D574C-EC9F-C46E-831E6865C9C6F882>

However, the new information and forms will not be available on the website until approximately the first of August. Once the bills become law, we will be updating our Hazlewood Act: Frequently Asked Questions pamphlet. It will be available on our website at www.tvc.state.tx.us

AUXILIARY NEWS

The Unit and post members are decorating a float to the theme of "Travel America" for the 4th of July Parade in the Woodlands. Everyone is invited to

come and help and take part in the parade. The parade starts at 9:00 a.m., but we will be decorating at the Woodlands United Methodist Church Parking Lot by 7:30 a.m. and parking will be difficult after eight.

The Department Convention was held in the McAllen Texas Convention Center June 27-30. Mary Bolin, Rosalie Fryer, Sue Ellen Bannon represented Unit 305.

It is time to start making plans to furnish School Supplies for the employee's children of the Regent Care. We would appreciate donations to help us finance this project. Make checks to ALA Unit 305 c/o Gene Wilson-Watz, 103 N. Avonlea Circle, The Woodlands 77382. Thank you very much in advance.

The Unit voted to donate \$100 to the Houston U.S.O. to help furnish their room at the Bush Airport. With many service members traveling through the area it has become more important to have an area for our military members.

As an on-going project we keep collecting items for our Homeless Veterans, and care packages to sent to our service members overseas.

Rosalie Fryer installed our officers for the 2009-2010 year:

Pres. Mary Bolin

V. Pres. Paula Ison

Sec/Treas. Gene Wilson-Watz

Chaplain Mary Lee Mulvihill

Sgt-at-Arms Annie Smith

Historian Stephanie Marshall

Members-at-Large

Jackie Ulmer, Diane Ross &

Rosalie Fryer

POST POLICY

While wearing the American Legion cap, salutes should be made as if in the military uniform.

NEWS of INTEREST

ASPIRIN ---- SOME NEW INFORMATION

HOW IT CAN SAVE LIVES...

It is important to always have ASPIRIN in the home!

ABOUT HEART ATTACKS:

There are other symptoms of an heart attack besides the pain on the left arm. One must also be aware of an intense pain on the chin, as well as nausea and lots of sweating, however these symptoms may also occur less frequently.

NOTE : There may be no pain in the chest during an heart attack.

Why have Aspirin by your bedside? The majority of people (about 60%) who had an heart attack during their sleep, did not wake up. However, if it occurs, the chest pain may wake you up from your deep sleep. If that happens, IMMEDIATELY DISSOLVE TWO ASPIRINS IN YOUR MOUTH and swallow them with a bit of water.

Dial 911 for help.

Afterwards, phone a neighbour or a family member who lives close by and state "HEART ATTACK!!!" and that you have taken 2 ASPIRINS.

Take a seat on a chair or sofa and
wait for their
arrival and
DO NOT LIE DOWN !!!

OPERATION: LOVE REUNITED

If you are a member of family member of the United States Military, and are interested in having very special and touching images with a patriotic edge taken of you and/or your family before a deployment or during, and at your reunion, please contact Herbert Photography or visit www.oplove.org to find a photographer in your area. You will receive a substantial package as a gift in appreciation for all you have been through as a military member.

POEM BY JOE HAMMOND

4th of July Came a Scorcher!

105 degrees & Wind that burned
like Flame!

VETERANS marched just
the same.

Speeches made

& Lemonade

In the Welcome
Shade.

Devilled Eggs!

Potato Salad!

Beans & Weinies!

Well-tanned girls

In bright Bikinis!

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E. Joseph Hammond

Post Activities

Day	Date	Activity	Location
Sat.	Jul 4	Parade	Methodist Church
Mon.	Jul 13	Ex. Comm. Meet	Office
Thur.	Jul 16	Membership Meet	Rayford Rd.
Mon.	Aug 17	Ex. Comm. Meet	Office
Thur.	Aug 20	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd.

Post Officers

Commander Everett Ison 281-289-9524

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