



American Legion

POST 305 BUGLE

August 2009

Volume 5 Issue 8

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Legionnaires',

I would like to thank everyone that attended our June meeting. This was my first meeting as your Commander and I look forward in serving you throughout the coming year.

I shared information about starting a Son of the American Legion Squadron at our post. This is an invaluable asset to us and I believe that a squadron would complement in our activities and we can also support them as well. I have asked the Sons of the American Legion District Commander (Jerry Beaird) to speak at our August meeting. He will be able give a basic overview and also to answer questions.

We need to get our Legion Riders back. Mike Sorich worked very hard in starting the unit and I would like to make sure that we recognize them as they provide an avenue in support of our troops and our community. More information will be available at future meetings.

I am asking for our Legionnaires to volunteer on several committees that we have in the Post. These include Americanism Such As Oratorical Contest, Boys State, Scholarship, Flag Etiquette; Flag Disposal; Funerals; Color Guard; Membership; Fund Raising; Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation; Public Relations; Children & Youth; Adopt-A-Path; Legislative; POW/MIA; Employment; Boy Scouts; July 4th Parade. So if you would like to assist in any one of these pro-

grams, just let me know and I will pencil you in.

I would like to remind everyone that our annual picnic is approaching. The date is October 15th and it will be held at Shadowbend Park on Lake Woodlands Drive. This is a great time to relax and enjoy the comradeship with each other. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and bratwurst will be provided by the post. More information will be communicated next month.

Our next meeting is August 20th at 7 PM.

For God and Country,
Everett Ison

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We began the meeting of July 16th by determining that we had a quorum, 12 members in good standing. Actually we had 18, down a bit from our usual 25 or so.

The finance officer, **Dave Lips**, reported a General Fund of \$10798.84 and an Allocated fund of \$20,420.53. 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.

1st Vice Kimberly Biggerstaff reported that the web site is down until 1 August. She made recruiting posters available for members to post in public places.

2nd. Vice Brad Trefz reported that he will try to get speakers for future meeting. There will be a Welcome Home Party for all veterans on 1 August in Houston, and he is looking into having a receiving table representing our Post. The Fourth of July Parade went well.

Service officer: Representing Service Officer Dayton Denton, Mickey Fussell showed a sample of the tubs we have given U. S. Vets. He called for donations of household items or money to fulfill our promise to provide 50 tubs this year. A donation of \$50 would provide enough goods to fill one tub.

A cost effective way of mailing a newsletter to members who do not have e-mail is needed. Suggestions to reduce cost included limiting the number to four or two per year and selling advertising space. Other suggestions are sought.

John Nanninga said we will have 2010 pocket calendars to hand out to potential members by the end of this year.

Commander Everett Ison said that he would like to revitalize interest in the Legion Riders for our Post, and start a Sons of the Legion squadron.

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



Rosalie Fryer and Mary Bolin work while Rudy Charest watches.

Seventeen Post members and ten Unit members showed up to decorate the float and march in the parade. We didn't win any prizes this year, but the impartial, renowned expert John Nanninga opined that the Honor Guard was the best he saw in the parade. Whatever the outcome, it was a great parade (we were done and gone before the last part of the parade finished), and we had a good time talking and working together. Maybe next year more of us might get together at the parade.

VETERANS ADVOCATE

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS
Houston VA Regional Office 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

On 10 JUL the House passed a \$133.7 billion spending bill that boosts funding for veterans benefits in fiscal 2010, and includes some advance funding for fiscal 2011. The measure, which passed 415-3, also contains funding for military construction projects and other activities of the Veterans Affairs Department. "With passage of this fiscal year 2010 bill, the Congress will have increased veteran's health care and benefits funding by 58% in the past two and a half years," said Chet Edwards (D-TX), the chairman of the Military Construction-Veterans' Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. "This is an unprecedented increase in Congress' commitment to veterans, and in my book, our veterans have earned every dime of this funding." Zach Wamp (R-TN), the ranking Republican on the panel, echoed strong support for the legislation, but added that he continues "to be concerned about the ability of the [department] to absorb large funding increases provided in this bill." Wamp also asked Appropriations Committee Chairman David R. Obey (D-WI), and

Edwards to insist on holding a conference committee with the Senate to resolve differences between the two bills. The Senate Appropriations Committee finished work on a \$133.9 billion companion bill 7 JUL.

The House bill (H.R.3082) would appropriate about \$77.9 billion in discretionary spending, roughly 7% more than fiscal 2009 (PL 110-329) levels and \$239 million more than the White House requested. Before passing the bill, the House adopted by voice vote six amendments, including provisions that would:

- *Redirect \$3.5 million to the Office of National Veterans' Sports Programs and Special Events from the department's medical support and compliance account, offered by Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Filner (D-CA);*
- *Require the department to provide Congress with a report on the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy at veterans' medical facilities, by Pete Sessions (R-TX);*
- *Shift \$1 million to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for free legal services and reduce the account for the Office of Inspector General by the same amount, by Shelley Moore Capitol (R-WV);*

The spending measure would provide roughly \$108.9 billion for the department, about 14% above the amount enacted for fiscal 2009, and equal to President Obama's request. Of that, \$53 million would be discretionary spending, roughly 8% more than in fiscal 2009 and \$2.9 billion more than the administration's request. The spending measure would also set aside \$48.2 billion for three veterans' medical accounts in fiscal 2011, about 8% more than it would appropriate for fiscal 2010. The idea is to give decision makers foreknowledge about future funding levels so plans can be made with greater confidence. Under the bill, the Defense Department would get \$24.6 billion for accounts related to military construction projects, family

housing, base realignment and closures. That represents about a 12% decrease. Related agencies - such as the American Battle Monuments Commission - would get \$282.5 million, roughly 36% greater than in fiscal 2009. The White House has expressed support for the House-passed version of the bill, but took issue with incremental funding for several military projects, including a new data center for the National Security Agency. [Source: CQ Today Online News Matthew M. Johnson article 10 Jul 09 ++]

AUXILIARY NEWS

At the July meeting, I presented **Ursala McDonald** with a 15 year pin. I also presented Certificates of Appreciation to many Auxiliary members for their outstanding work this past year.

We moved to donate \$50 to the international SPCA. They work in helping veterans in Iraq, who have become attached to dogs, bring them back to the states, whether for companionship or therapeutic reasons.

The Unit delivered cookies to the VA Clinic in Conroe for the 4th of July, and also gave trays of cookies to retirement home veterans.

We know of two reserve units that are deploying to Afghanistan in August. So, this past month we have been sewing cooling neck wraps either at home or at **Paula Ison's** home. Our goal was to complete 200 before the reserve units deployed. We met that goal. The many workers who helped include **Paula Ison, Mary Lee Mulvihill, Jennifer Le, Rosalie Fryer, Stephanie Marshall, Annie Smith, Sue Ellen Bannon, Mary Lou Shur, and Mary Bolin.**

In August the Unit will be supplying 91 children with school supplies. They are the Children of the employees of Regent Care Facility. If you would like to support this effort, send a check to the Unit with the notation "School Supplies".

Mary Bolin
President

AUXILIARY EXTRA

Mary Bolin was reelected to her third term as President to the Auxiliary. To mark the occasion the Auxiliary presented her with a bouquet of flowers.



Mary Bolin

POST POLICY

When not wearing the official Legion Cap, Honors to the Colors or any other requirement to salute will be accomplished by saluting. This is a recent change to Title 4 United States Code regarding the flag.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

On August 1st, Houston held a Welcome Home event for the troops returning from the war zones. Post 305 had a recruiting booth thanks to the effort of Brad Trefz. During the day one or more members were signed up for Post 305.



Brad Trefz and Kim Biggerstaff at Welcome Home

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Post collects aluminum cans as a fund raising program. We will take them in any form, but crushed cans would be most appreciated. Bring your crushed cans to the meeting for collection.

The Post would like to get a portrait quality picture of all Commanders, past and present as an important part of the Post History. Please come to the meeting on September 17th in a white shirt & tie and blue blazer. If you don't have one, maybe you can borrow one at the meeting.

Post Activities

Day	Date	Activity	Location
Mon	Aug 17	Ex. Comm. Meet	Office
Thur.	Aug 20	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd.
Mon.	Sep. 14	Ex. Comm. Meet.	Office
Thur.	Sep. 17	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd.
Thur.	Sep. 17	Pictures of All Past Commanders at Meeting.	Rayford Rd.

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