



American Legion



POST 305 BUGLE

October 2009

Volume 5 Issue 10

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Legionnaires',

Our meeting was very informative this month as we had Loree Tillman who started Tillman Troops and continues to support our troops. Also in attendance was Tom Mitchell (US Vets) as he informed us of the growing needs and also what programs that continue to have an impact in our community and also programs that will be coming soon. We have joined together in support of both and look forward in helping where we can.

I am truly impressed in our Boys State participants. Boys State attendees Cris Conlon and Kendall Crist gave the post a summation of their experiences at Boys State. Each has really enjoyed the educational experience they learned in how our government works. It was a pleasure to give each of them a Certificate of Citizenship.

I provided a report of the facility and we have a committee to look for an alternate location to meet. In the meantime, I have signed a contract for us to continue to meet at the Rayford Road Community Center for the year 2010, but we are under a 45 day cancellation notice. We will be reporting back to the membership of the findings, but it will be up to the membership to approve the rec-

ommendations. This will take all of us to search for a location and if you know any locations or recommendations, please give me a call and let's look together.

Our Oratorical committee chair Lacey Homan is currently deployed and she will not be able to participate. This is a great program and the students have a chance to gain a scholarship by participating.

Remember that our annual picnic is our next meeting on October 15th. 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, so come on out and enjoy the evening.

For God and Country,
Everett Ison

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

After the opening ceremony and the check for a quorum, we had several speakers.

Loree Tillman told us about the work of Tillman's Troops which she started to support the troops in Afganistan after her husband was deployed. She asked for volunteers and money to continue to ship packages to the deployed troops. For those who would like to donate, she

can be found on the web under her name or Tillman's Troops.

Next Tom Mitchell from U.S. Vets spoke about the program and thanked us for our help in sending the "move in" boxes to them. We have a commitment of 50 boxes. So far we have sent 22 and we have \$300 which will make 6 more. So, we are in need of money for this effort. Send contributions to PO Box 9336, The Woodlands, TX 77387. Make the check out to the Post and note for U.S. Vets.

Next, two high school seniors that we sent to Boy's State spoke to us about their adventures. Both agreed that it was one of the best experiences of their life.



Christophe Conlon, from Oak Ridge H. S., became a senator while at Boy's State and was so enthused about the program that he has applied to be a counselor next year.



Next, **Kendall Crist** from John Cooper spoke to us about his experiences. He said he learned how to run an election campaign. He ran three times and won once, so he learned the hard way.

Three other boys were unable to make the meeting.

We nominated **Rudy Charest** to the office of Chaplain to replace **Sam Maiolo**. Nominations will be opened again at the October meeting and the election will be in November. If you are interested, you need to get your name on the ballot by coming to the meeting.

We discussed the need to find another place to meet, but took no action. After December's meeting, we will no longer be meeting at the Rayford Road Community Center as it is being torn down.

We also distributed the budget, but took no action so members could have time to study the budget.

Both items were table for the October meeting.

Social Corner

If **you** haven't heard - we've initiated a new "social hour" event. Most recently we met at Steel City Pizzeria on September 21st – if you missed it you missed a really good time (and some really good pizza). We will be postponing the social hour in October due to the Post Picnic and the Rummage sale, but stay tuned for announcements about our Social Hour in November, when we will again be holding a social event on the Monday following the regular post meeting. These are informal events and all are welcome - bring your wife and come out and meet your fellow Legionnaires in an informal setting.

Of course as mentioned - our annual Post Picnic is coming up in October in place of our monthly meeting on 15 October. The picnic will be at Shadowbend Park in the Woodlands. A map is included below. Come out for BBQ and some fun!

The following Saturday - October 17- we will be having our annual Rummage sale. We are still in need of donations for the Rummage sale! Please drop them off at the Storage Building, or bring them the morning of Friday, October 16 to the Robinson Road Community center at the end of Robinson Road in Oak Ridge. If you have items you need to have picked up that you just aren't able to drop off – give me a call and we'll try to get out and get them.

We are still in need of volunteers to help pick up all the items at the storage shed at 8:00 AM on 16 October at the storage building at 29611 West Hawthorne Drive

in Spring (just off Rayford Road). Please contact me if you can turn out and help us move everything over to the Robinson Road Community Center. Pickup trucks are needed! We also need volunteers, 17 October. We really need your help, to help work on Saturday please step up and do something to help the post raise desperately needed funds!

As always a list of upcoming events that may be of interest to veterans is included below.

If you have any questions on these or other events of interest to our members please contact me at the information below. See you next month!

Brad Trefz
Second Vice Commander
(202) 494-8027

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

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program (HCHV), in cooperation with the City of Houston-Parks and Recreation Department, City of Houston-Office of Veterans Affairs, Coalition for the Homeless, Harris County Hospital District (HCHD), Harris County Veteran Services, Salvation Army Harbor Light Center, SEARCH, Task Force for Houston Area Homeless Veterans, U.S. Veterans Initiative, VA Regional Office, and Vet Centers, is hosting the 9th Houston Area Stand Down

for homeless Veterans on October 7 – 8, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Emancipation Park Community Center located at 3018 Dowling Street.

“Stand Down” is military terminology referring to the brief period of time a soldier leaves an active combat area in order to rest and regain strength. The Houston Area Stand Down will bring a wide range of specialized resources together to provide homeless Veterans with comprehensive medical and psychosocial services. Stand Down can be an opportunity for the homeless Veteran to access a broad spectrum of services at one convenient location and to create a plan for re-entry into mainstream society.

Stand Downs are one part of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ efforts to provide services to homeless Veterans. Stand Downs are typically one to three day events providing services to homeless Veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services, such as housing, employment and substance abuse treatment.

Agency involvement requires staffing a booth during Stand Down to meet one-on-one with homeless Veterans to assess their needs, educate them regarding community resources available to assist them with their needs, and help them begin the corresponding application processes. Houston agencies that wish to provide immediate services and/or information to Houston area homeless Veterans should contact Michelle Jabbie at (713)791-1414, ext

5870. Those wishing to volunteer may contact Derrick Morrison at (713) 791-1414, ext. 6399 to register.

AUXILIARY NEWS

.At our meeting, Loree Tillman was a guest. We met with the Post and Loree explained about “Tillman’s Troops”. They are a group of volunteers that support deployed troops and their families. Their goal is to send 400 Unit Care Packages to Afganistan in 2010. WE voted to send \$100 to “Tillman’s Troops” to go towards helping with the mailing.

The Unit voted to purchase 4 wreaths for Wreaths Across America – Houston Program. Wreaths Across America lays wreaths on each grave in a National Cemetery across America. The Houston program will begin at 11 a.m. on Dec. 12, 2009 at the National Cemetery. We finally heard from Department that our Unit was awarded the Best Unit in the state for Legislative Work this past year. We all must thank-you to **Betty Dettinger** and **Sandra Jones** for all the work they did to win this much deserved award.

The Unit 305 Craft Fair is Nov. 7th at the Sawdust Wall Mart. Ladies, get your crafts ready to bring to our table at the fair.

The District 7 Convention is being held in Willis, Post 618, on Oct 24th. The Unit members that will be attending are **Mary Bolin, Rosalie Fryer, Sue Ellen Bannon, Mary Lee Mulvihill, Jenifer Le, Veronical Maiolo,** and **Ann Jones**.

The Fall Picnic with the Post is Thursday October 15th at Shadowbend Park at 7 p.m. Come to the cookout and socialize, and bring a dist to share and have a great time.

Our next regular meeting will be Thursday November 19th at Rayford Road Community Center at 7 p.m.

Mary Bolin
President

POST POLICY

Nobody is allowed to “**Break The Colors**” (*enter the space between the National Colors and Post Colors*), such as handing something to the Commander or anyone on the dais from the floor.

This policy has been violated frequently during meeting. Please read and observe the policy.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

DECEMBER START FOR VETERAN TOLL ROAD PROGRAM APPROVED
Effective December 18, 2009, Harris County Toll Road Authority will offer a discounted toll program to Disabled Veterans and Purple Heart recipients, as well as recipients of the Medal of Honor. The measure was approved by Harris County Commissioners Court on September 29, 2009.

The Toll Road Authority developed the program pursuant to the recently enacted state law which allows tolling agencies to grant discounted tolls to specified veterans. The full text of House Bill (H.B.) 3139 can be read at www.house.state.tx.us under the section enrolled Bills.

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 November 19th in a white shirt & tie and blue blazer. If you don't have one, maybe you can borrow one at the meeting. We got several pictures at the September meeting, but will still need a bunch.

Post Activities

Day Date	Activity	Location
Mon. Oct 12	Ex. Comm. Meet.	Office
Thur. Oct 15	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd.
Fri. Oct 16	Set-Up Rummage Sale.	Robinson Rd.
Sat. Oct 17	Rummage Sale	Robinson Rd.
Mon. Oct 19	Social Time	TBD
Sat. Oct 24	District Conference	Willis, Post 618
Mon. Nov 16	Ex. Comm. Meet.	Office
Thur. Nov 19	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd.
Thur. Nov. 19	Make-up Pictures for Past Commanders	Rayford Rd

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