



American Legion



POST 305 BUGLE

November 2009

Volume 5 Issue 11

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Legionnaires',

I would like to thank everyone who made it out to our annual picnic. Everyone had a great time and it was a chance to get to know our members and family again. I would also like to thank **Dave Lips** in arranging the hot dogs and hamburgers and also **Chuck Suhr** for the beverages. The **Auxiliary** put the icing on the cake with the side dishes and desert; but also the kid's activities.

While I was not there, it was my understanding that we had a very successful Rummage Sale. Thanks to all of those that participated in make this a successful fund raiser.

We had the District 7 meeting and it was good to see **Congressman Kevin Brady** as he remarked on the issues that we are facing from Washington. **Judge Alan Sadler** was also in attendance and was the key note speaker and made remarks that complimented Congressman Brady's outlook.

November is also the time in which we can honor those Veterans that have served this county proudly. Several activities have been planned by local schools and communities across our area on November 11th and 12th. Several business are also providing either free

or discounted services or meals to our veterans, please take time to thank them for remembering us. We served this county to keep it free and we did it with pride.

I am still looking for an Oratorical Chair in Lacey's absents. The District Oratorical Contest will be held on January 10th at the Willis Post 618.

Remember that Chili Cook-off happens in January so all of the cooks get ready to prepare the best chili you can brew up.

Our next meeting will be at 7 PM on November 19th at the Rayford Road Community Center.

For God and Country,
Everett Ison

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October is party time for the meeting attendees as we met at Shadowbend Park for a picnic. Even though the weather was forbidding, we were able to get the picnic completed without a weather break.

We did have a procedural matter to take care of and we voted to send \$100 to the Kids Wish Network for Mason from Tomball who wants to go to Disney Land. He suffers from cerebral palsy, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome and autism.

We hope we made his life a little brighter if only for a short time.

After that bit of business it was on to the mets, hot dogs and hamburgers with all the right sides furnished by the Auxiliary, washed down with a Margarita or other drink.



(L-R) Mary Bolin, Rudy Charest, Jim Bolin, Rosalie Fryer at picnic

Social Corner

No Report

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

As you probably know, during the last couple of years, the Houston Bar Association, together with the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, has been providing free legal clinics at the VA Hospital, several residence facilities, and some selected American Legion and VFW Posts. I have been working with them on this project, and, in furtherance of the effort, we will be providing 20 or more lawyers and support staff

to assist veterans and their spouses, on November 14, 2009, at American Legion Post 560, 3720 Alba Road, Houston, Texas 77018, from 9:00 am until all clients are assisted. There is no charge for the services, and no reservations are necessary. It is first-come, first-serve.

This pilot program has been a wonderful success, has helped hundreds of veterans and their spouses, and has caught the eye of the State Bar of Texas, whose president, Terry Tottenham, will be in Houston on November 13th to begin the process of organizing the program on a statewide level. I will attend that meeting.

I would very much appreciate your assistance in getting the message out to every post in the division, to give every veteran or spouse of a veteran notice of the coming free clinic at Post 560. Obviously, we want the biggest turnout possible, and, at the last clinic, there were approximately 40 clients who received free legal assistance. If the problem presented at the clinic requires more than an initial interview, the Houston Volunteer Lawyer Program will appoint the veteran or spouse an attorney, who will represent the client to the conclusion of the problem, at no charge to the veteran nor the veteran's spouse. They handle virtually every kind of legal problem, including wills and estates, property matters, landlord-tenant problems, financial disputes, family matters, probate, general civil matters, consumer complaints, disability claims and claims involving veterans' benefits. They do not handle criminal matters. In order to get free legal assistance, the veteran or spouse may not have an annual income

which is greater than approximately \$90,000 per year.

Would you notify all the posts in our division of this opportunity. We want this to be a great success, since, if it does well, we could have such clinics operating in every part of Texas in the very near future. Thank you.

Bryan Coleman

AUXILIARY NEWS

Our October meeting was a combined picnic with the Post at Shadowbend Park. There was a great turnout. The small children came dressed up in their Halloween costumes. They decorated pumpkins and had their faces painted. Then they did a small parade around so all could see them.

Betty Lips was presented a five year pin. **Donna Turner** was also presented a five year pin which was mailed to her new address in MO.

The Auxiliary had seven members help with set-up and sales for the Post rummage sale. The public came on Friday as we were trying to get everything set up for the Sat. sale. Such is always the case and we do about half our sales on Friday.



Rummage Sale in Progress with Rosalie Fryer

The District Seven Convention held Oct. 24th at Willis. Our Unit had seven members in attendance and we won a \$50 check for having the most members at the Convention. The Convention started with no electricity, by candle light. Just as we were about to start, the power came back on. It was a very informative meeting. One of the highlights was learning about the American Legion Children's Home in Oklahoma. I have some brochures about it to share at the November meeting.



Mary Boin & Everett Ison participating in the Parade In

Our Craft Fair is Nov. 7th at Walmart parking lot off Sawdust Rd. from 8 to 4p.m. Come out and support us!

Poppies will be distributed Nov. 7th at Krogers on Cochran's Crossings from 8 to 1 p.m. to support our disabled veterans who make the poppies.

If you have not paid your dues for 2009-2010, you need to do so before Jan. 1, 2010 as the dues will increase \$3 at that time.

November meeting will have a Thanksgiving meal at the end of the meeting on Nov. 19th at Rayford Community Center. Hope to see you there.

Mary Bolin
President

POST POLICY

The following is a repeat, because everyone still does it!

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

Military Appreciation Dinners. You can get a free meal if you serve or served in the military. Please disseminate to as many fellow veterans/service members as possible.

<http://www.goldencorral.com/military/>

<http://www.applebees.com/vetsDay/default.aspx>

Discounts at Retail Stores. I read post saying that there is a 10% military discount for Active Duty, Reserve, and Retired Military at Lowes and Home Depot. Dependent ID also seems to be accepted.

I called Lowes Customer Care Center and was told the customer should to show a military ID card and request a discount at the time of check-out. The discount is usually 10%. Right now, there does not seem to be a limitation on the dates or time of year this discount is available, but that is subject to change.

Customer Care at Home Depot read me their policy. By presenting a valid military ID, military and their immediate families can receive a discount at check out for Memorial Day, the 4th of July, and Veteran's Day. The policy is silent

as to whether or not it is just on those dates or if it applies a few days before or after. That seems to be a manager decision, so you might contact the store before hand.

What I did learn in my search is that it is reasonable to start all of your shopping by searching the web for military discounts. It also seems to be reasonable to ask any national chain store (from auto parts to clothing) or any national chain restaurant if they provide a military discount -- such as the store I shopped at last night and didn't have any idea I should have asked. Seems like that also is a particularly reasonable question of you are getting food from a national chain drive-up window -- quite a number of those, but not all, from what I could tell.

Joannie Parr

Pictures of Past Commanders. Historian Mickey Fussell was marginally successful at getting the pictures of past commanders for our history. If you are a past commander and can make the meeting, please come to get your picture take. We are wearing blue blazer with white shirt and tie.

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.

Post Activities

Day	Date	Activity	Location
Wed.	Nov 11	Veteran's Day	As Appropriate
Mon.	Nov 16	Ex. Comm. Meet.	Office
Thur.	Nov 19	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd.
Thur.	Nov. 19	Make-up Pictures for Rayford Rd	

Mon. Dec. 14	Past Commanders	
Thur. Dec. 17	Ex. Comm. Meet.	Office
Fri. Dec. 25	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd.
	Christmas	w/families

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