



American Legion



POST 305 BUGLE

December 2009

Volume 5 Issue 12

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Legionnaires',

It is hard to believe that another year will soon begin and the present year has passed so rapidly. So as the Christmas season is now upon us, I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year. May this Holiday Season be filled with the love of family, friends, and friendship.

It is my sad duty to report that **Arthur Magill** died on Thursday, October 29. He was a real trooper and supported the Legion in many ways. He will be truly missed and our prayers go to Art's family.

Membership is still an issue and we need these renewals returned to the post as soon as possible. Additionally, I would like to ask that all members to update their information with the post when information changes in order that we can update our records and also update Department records as well.

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

In closing, may you all have a joyous Holiday and remember to pray for our

troops and hope that they will be safe in their ongoing efforts to protect our country.

Our next meeting will be at 7 PM on December 17th at the Rayford Road Community Center.

For God and Country,
Everett Ison

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The meeting began with a short talk by Dottie Wainwright who talked about the Daughters' of the American Revolution support for the troops overseas.

New members **Wayne O'Neal**, **Joe Kaoudelka**, **Rich Bothmann** and wife **Charlie Bothmann** were introduced by Sgt.-at-Arms **Earl Jones**.

Finance Officer **Dave Lips** reported that the General Fund has \$13,885, and the Allocated Fund has \$20,526.

First Vice Cdr. **Kimberly Biggerstaff** reported that we have 296 paid members. Our goal is 486, so for those of you who have not renewed for 2010, now is the time. We are way behind as you can see.

Second Vice Cdr. **Brad Trefz** reported net income from the rummage sale at \$1,009.49. That is below our goal of \$1500 for a rummage sale. More large ticket items for the next sale would help increase the income.

Service Officer **Dayton Denton** asked for help in making up more tubs of supplies for U.S. Vets. If you can help, call Dayton and volunteer (832-928-6054).

We voted to donate \$100 to the Adopt a Senior Program at the Montgomery County Friendship Center.

We voted to send 10% of the rummage sale proceeds to the Auxiliary for their help.

We approved the budget for 2009-2010 and elected **Rudy Charest** as Chaplain to replace **Sam Maiolo**.

Voted to use a \$1000 donation by Medical Evaluation Specialist to send two additional boys to Boys State and provide one additional \$500 scholarship.

Win Salter agreed to be the chairman of the Cook Book Committee. The committee was created to make and sell a cook book as a fund raiser.

After the meeting the Auxiliary provided a wonderful Thanksgiving supper with all the trimmings.

Social Corner

With Thanksgiving and the holidays upon us, we are temporarily suspending social events at the post until after the New Year – with everyone traveling and so busy. If any member of the post is alone this holiday, or looking for an activity – please contact myself or Dayton (our service officer) and we will help you find something fun to do. So, from here this month's social corner departs from the normal to talk about something different. Dottie Wainwright spoke at our November 19th Post Meeting about some of the programs of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and wanted me to pass along information about a special project the DAR is work-

ing on to record veteran's history for the National Archives.

The National Archives in Washington DC has instituted a project to record the history of America's Veterans. The American Legion is also a partner in this project. For information visit <http://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html>

The DAR is taping history interviews at the Shenandoah City Hall as part of this project. Please contact Dottie (dbw614@yahoo.com) or Jan Dunham (janedun_2000@yahoo.com, Cell: 281-682-6688) to arrange an interview.

The project is interested in hearing from all veterans of all wars – no matter their involvement or duty – state-side or in theater – they want to hear from you. The local project has already conducted thousands of interviews with veterans from WWII to those returning from the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a budding historian I cannot express how important this project is to the national historical record and to researchers. So often the story told of war is one of big battles and generals. As Stephen Ambrose's work "Band of Brothers" and Ken Burn's documentaries on the Civil War and World War II have demonstrated – it is the stories of ordinary men at the company and squad level that are the most compelling and tell the real stories. These videos become important "source records" and are vital to truly understanding the history of our nation. To historians these stories are an essential document to helping create a better picture of the history of our country and the people who have participated in making it what it is. Your interview becomes an integral part of the national historical record at the Na-

tional Archives preserved for all future generations of Americans. Please consider participating in this project and help tell the untold stories of America's veterans.

If anyone has any questions about this project or any other please let me know! Have a Happy and Safe holiday and see you at our next meeting!

Brad Trefz
2nd Vice Commander

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

No report this month.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Remembering our veterans for Veterans Day, we delivered cookies to three retirement homes and the VA Clinic in Conroe.

December 12th is Wreaths Across America with the ceremony starting 11 a.m. at the Houston National Cemetery. The Unit purchased four wreaths in memory of fallen Post 305 members.

The Unit has raised \$230 by raffle tickets and donations for the International SPCA. The ISPCA helps bring dogs back from Iraq that have become attached to a veteran who wants to adopt them.

The VA Hospital Gift Shop is where a patient at the hospital is able to select gifts to send to their families. It is supported by the Auxiliary of the American

Legion. The Unit supplied 12 lap quilts to the gift shop to be used as gifts.

The Unit voted to send \$50 to the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Relief Fund. The fund helps auxiliary families in need.

After the meeting we provided a Thanksgiving meal to the Post members. Many thanks to everyone who helped supply the meal.

The annual New Years Eve open house will be held at the home of Jim and Mary Bolin from 8 p.m. to whenever. Bring a snack to share. The address is 20006 Thornmead Ln., Spring.

Mary Bolin
President

POST POLICY

Cell phones must be turned off during meeting to prevent their ringing during the meeting.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Negotiating with the funeral industry and helping families when they are most vulnerable are Ken Lambert's passions. He routinely saves families thousands of dollars by showing them how to negotiate their own funerals and the funerals of their loved ones.

"The funeral industry should compete for the opportunity to serve your family, just like every other business has to fight for your business. I just make sure they compete hard when it comes to serving your family," says Ken. "It is an honor to serve veterans' families. Unfortunately, the industry sees most veterans' families as a sales opportunity. Too often veterans' families are talked out of their benefits because the funeral establishment wants to sell the same

merchandise that the VA provides at no charge to veterans' families."

How does Ken help families? First, he counsels with them over the telephone but asks for first names only. "I get very personal with families. Religion, politics, money, race, and culture, are very sensitive subjects. If I only have their first name, they will open up and I can help them get exactly what they want."

After the family decides what they want, Ken helps them select the right funeral provider. "Few things are more traumatic than selecting the wrong provider for your family."

Questioning the audience, Ken asks, "How much is too much money? How much is enough? These are difficult questions and every family is different. Some families want a \$30,000 funeral. That's fine --- but if you want to spend \$30,000, let's get you a \$70,000 funeral. Or better, let's get the \$30,000 funeral for \$15,000 or less and put the savings into an education fund for your grandchildren. Don't you think that is a more lasting memorial?"

Unfortunately, about half the families Ken helps are surviving on social security or simply their military retirement. Many families ask, "It's barely enough to live on, Ken. How can I afford a decent funeral for my wife and I when we can barely make it day to day?" Ken has the answers. Ken can show families how to have a wonderful celebration of the lives on a shoe-string. He also has many ideas about how to fund funerals.

"Knowledge is the Key!" relates Ken. "I simply talk you through funerals so you can decide what is best." Ken does not sell funerals. He simply shows families how to negotiate the best deals then

shows them how to fund the funerals. "If you can't talk about it when you are well, how are you going to talk about it when your loved one is at Death's door. How will your spouse or children know what you want if you can't talk to them about it?" Ken makes it easy for families to talk about what they want. "It is really exciting to see. Families who can't talk about it at first, will talk for hours about what they want once they open up. Then I ask, 'Now aren't you glad we had this conversation?'"

Randy Beck, a Houston attorney, relates, "How many of us really know what to do. Where am I going to be buried? What kind of casket to select? Plus Ken takes the fear out of planning a funeral."

Ken also shared one of his most embarrassing flying moments. After an extraordinarily hard landing, Ken describes how the crews' loadmaster broke the silence --- "Pilot, you are never going to live this down. When you hit, one of the passengers lost his dentures."

Ken can be reached any time by dialing 281-357-0195 or toll free 1-888-669-4947 or email: klambert@FuneralNegotiator.com.

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

Sun. Jan. 10 Dist. Oratorical Willis Post
Mon. Jan. 18 Ex. Comm. Meet. Office
Thur. Jan. 21 Membership Meet. Rayford Rd.

Post Officers

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