



American Legion Post 305

“The Woodlands Post”

THE BUGLE

October 2010

Volume 6, Issue 10

COMMANDER’S CORNER



Dear Legionnaires,

I would like to first congratulate our new Judge Advocate, **John Nanninga**, for the year 2010-2011. Please take the time to thank John for his continued contribution to the American Legion and to this Post.

We had a very successful Department Executive Committee meeting in Austin this past month. The Committee accepted a challenge from The American Legion Riders to raise \$27,500 which will be donated to the Fisher House. This will give us an opportunity to revitalize The Woodlands Post 305 American Legion Riders. This is open to The

American Legion and to The American Legion Auxiliary, so it is a goal we can obtain.

Our Fall District Seven convention will be held on October 9th at Post 312 in Livingston, Texas. I encourage all members who can attend do so. The day-long affair gives attendees a look forward into what is happening within our District and a chance to get to know our District leadership

October 30th is the date of our Fall Rummage Sale, located as usual at the Robinson Road Community Center. We will need the help of Post and Unit members on Friday, October 29th to set up the sale items for the Saturday Sale. This is one of our more significant fund-raisers, helping to support the community and veteran programs we undertake.

Please remember that our Annual Picnic is our next meeting on October 21st. It will be held at Shadowbend Park on Lake Woodlands Drive. This is a great time to relax and enjoy the comradeship of one another, so

join us with family and friends and chow down.

For God and country,
Everett Ison

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Commander Ison opened the meeting and determined a quorum was present. Finance Officer **Dave Lips** reported on Post finances. The General Fund total was \$13,549.27 and the Allocated Fund total was \$21,262.24 for a grand total of both funds of \$34,811.61.

The current membership report was given by 1st Vice Commander **Kimberly Biggerstaff**. As of the 9/16 meeting, paid membership stands at 233, which

The Post and Auxiliary Unit meet at the **South County Community Center**, in The Woodlands, at 7: PM on the third Thursday of each month. The Unit hosts a potluck supper following the meetings. The location of the Center is the southeast corner of the intersection of Lake Robbins Drive and Grogans Mill Road.

includes 38 PUFLs, however an additional 25 members have submitted their dues, and these will be reckoned in at the District 7 meeting on October 9. All told, the Post has 258 paid up for a goal attainment of 58%. On a sad note, Chaplain **Rudy Charest** reported that 11 members of the Post went to Final Muster in the current year. Sergeant-at-Arms **Carl Smith** introduced two new Post members present: **William Lou Ward** and **William Brown**. Ward saw service with the USN and USAF, then joined NASA. Brown is a USAF veteran; a B-47 driver with SAC. (See B-47 article.)

Second Vice Commander **Jim Bolin** reminded all that our coming Rummage Sale is on October 30 at the Robinson Road Community Center. Note that the date was incorrectly cited in last month's Bugle. (The facility was unavailable on the earlier date.) One and all are urged to help with the set-up on Friday, October 29, including transport of sale items from our storage unit.

By unanimous vote, the office of Judge Advocate was filled by **John Nanninga**.

Mickey Fussell reported on progress inventorying all Post property and the consolidation of all Post-owned property at a single location. The last inventory was made in 2005.

With Veterans Day (November 11) just around the corner, the Post and Unit are considering the options for making an appearance and participating. We are invited

to join other participants at Anadarko Tower for an indoor ceremony – 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The City of Houston has also invited Legion Posts to its Veterans Day Parade. Other options are being reviewed

MEMBERSHIP

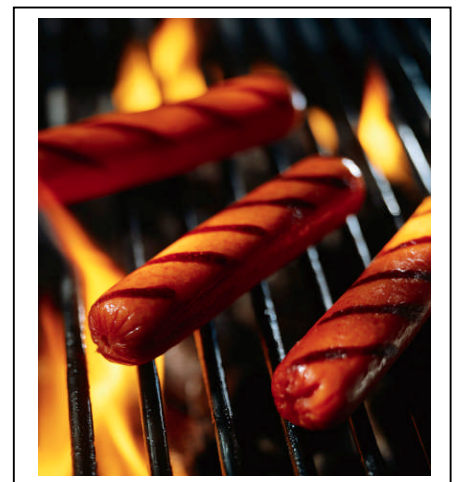
The Membership Committee needs to remind those of you who have yet to remit 2011 dues that it is not too late to become an Early Bird. It is also timely to remind you that New Years Day will cause unpaid Post and Unit members to be declared "delinquent" and no longer eligible to vote on Post and Unit actions.

If you would like to stop paying annual dues, the Legion offers the convenient alternative of joining the ranks of PUFLship, wherein you make one payment now and no further payments in your lifetime; no pesky dues reminders, no dunning phone calls and no checks to write. There are 38 Post members now who enjoy this exalted status. You can be one of them. If interested, see **Kim Biggerstaff** for details, including the one-time cost to you and the optional installment plan.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The October membership meetings of the Post and Unit will be a joint meeting, probably the signature social event of the year, the Octoberfest Picnic at Shadowbend Park Pavilion on October 21, starting at 7:00 PM. Commander Ison and President Jones will try their best to avoid

conduct of any business before the festivities, eating and drinking begin. Our volunteer cooks and helpers are asked to arrive no later than 6:45 PM with grill tools and fixin's. Our Chef-in-Chief is **Dave Lips**. Anyone who arrives late may miss the opening ceremony and might even risk missing the chow too. Folks who have had enough of meetings, but like to swap war and peace stories among us will find that this is a great venue for chewing the fat. Come and bring the kids, the mother-in-law, a close friend or two and enjoy the camaraderie. The Post furnishes the meats and the Auxiliary provides the side dishes and fixin's, so just come and enjoy!



FUND RAISING

It is important for Post and Unit members to remain aware of ongoing and periodic efforts to put gold in our coffers. Standing projects and those approaching include:

- ~ Rummage Sale
- ~ Aluminum Can Collection
- ~ Poppy Distribution
- ~ Birdies for Charity
- ~ Cookbook Development



VETERANS ADVOCATE **MORE ORANGE AID**

For those of you who served in Vietnam (or along its borders with Cambodia or Laos) and were, or may have been exposed to Agent Orange, the VA has completed its update of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 and will now entertain claims of damages in the form of three additional diseases, to wit:

- ~ Parkinson's Disease
- ~Hairy Cell and other Chronic B-Cell Leukemias, and
- ~Ischemic Heart Disease

Evidence provided in support of "presumptions" of service connection no longer requires proof of association between medical problems and military service, simplifying and accelerating the application process. All prior applications rejected involving these diseases will be reconsidered.

PTSD COMPENSATION

As of July, the VA published new rules which reduced evidence needed to support a post-traumatic stress disorder claim. While each such claim will be evaluated and require confirmation by a VA psychiatrist or psychologist, the new process is

expected to allow more accurate decisions toward award of medical care and other VA benefits.

TRICARE IMMUNE TO OBAMACARE

It has been confirmed by the VA that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will have no impact on the TRICARE medical health plan. Matt Flavin, Director of Veterans and Wounded Warriors Policy, stated that; "There is absolutely nothing in health reform that will affect TRICARE benefits." Furthermore, the House of Representatives unanimously passed HR4887, the TRICARE Affirmation Act, providing assurance to those in the military and their families of TRICARE meeting the requirements for coverage.

Important Contact Numbers

Houston VA Regional Office:

1-713-383-7842

County Veterans Serv. Offices:

Montgomery 1-936-539-7842

Harris 1-281-876-6600

Texas Veterans Commission:

1-800-252-8387

www.tvc.state.tx.us

State Legislators:

Dist. 4 - Tommy Williams

281-364-9426

Dist. 15 - Rob Eissler

281-681-9655

Dist. 16 - Brandon Creighton

936-539-0028

Dist. 126 - Patricia Harless

281-376-4114

SONS AND HOGS

If you remember back four years to September 2006, you will recall the membership voted to establish

a motorcycle branch – "The American Legion Riders Chapter of The Woodlands", so, I assume, dormant ("tabled") among Old Business is the implementation of that initiative. Now, I'm not a hog advocate and do not intend to "wake sleeping dogs", but I am a former SAL member, and that's my real subject.

When I was qualified by age and had a father who was a dedicated and devoted Legionnaire (Post 291, Department of Massachusetts), I joined the Sons of the American Legion and participated in the squadron's meetings, parades and programs. That was when all Legionnaires had only WWI as a "war era". I do not remember what motivated me to join, but it was obviously my parents, who also urged me into being a Boy Scout, a DeMolay member, a Soap Box Derby entrant and a regular Sunday school attendee.

My squadron met just in advance of the monthly Post meeting and so I, along with others, sat through the Post meetings, impressed by the ceremony, to our benefit. The grand events, to me, were the parades, five per year-- Bunker Hill Day (or Patriots' Day), Decoration Day (or Memorial Day), Independence Day, Armistice Day and another regular ceremony just in advance of Memorial Day where those who died at sea were honored at the shoreline. Enough of that!

In the August issue of The Bugle, Commander Ison cited his advocacy for forming an SAL

squadron at this Post. He announced that the August 19th meeting would be preceded by an open discussion of the subject, starting at 6:00 PM. The Commander was there with a cadre of officers, including Auxiliary Unit members. He had a slide or DVD presentation ready to run. As time went by, the audience he hoped for – parents and grandparents of sons – failed to appear. The projector was dismantled and put away and the session planned did not take place. It was approaching 7:00 PM.

In retrospect, what circumstances caused this apparent disinterest? Was the notice not adequate or too late? Possibly. Have the parents of sons gone missing, like the Harley Hog enthusiasts? I know the Legion has long since differed from the Legion of the 1940's, when dad was a hero who survived the short US role in the Great War, but, other Posts have active squadrons today. Let's not give up, but continue to try for a consensus among our members. And, with proper representation, call for a "sense of the Post".

Win Salter

THE B-47 STRATOJET

The sleek and highly advanced Boeing B-47 occupied an important place in the defense of the US. Its prime service years were mid-1950's to mid-1960's. With a crew of just three, this medium bomber had the primary mission to deliver nuclear bombs on bad guys. It was a major Cold War deterrent and never

experienced combat conditions, if you exclude MIG intercepts of reconnaissance flights. The B-47, with a maximum speed in excess of 600 mph, could outfly most interceptors of the day and handled like a fighter plane. Its sole defensive armament was a tail turret housing two 20 mm cannons. The co-pilot doubled as tail gunner and the navigator doubled as bombardier. It was the first US combat aircraft to have swept-back wings. B-47 squadrons of SAC were based at forward bases bracketing the Soviet Union – in the UK, Morocco, Spain, Alaska, Greenland and Guam. Often one-third of operational B-47s were armed and ready on alert ramps with crews on stand-by. As the longer range B-52 assumed nuclear strike duties, the number of B-47 wings began to be reduced. The last units – recon squadrons – were re-equipped or disbanded in 1969. We owe much to these Cold Warriors!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

By Abraham Lincoln

"You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred. You cannot build character and courage by taking away people's initiative and independence. You cannot help people permanently by doing for them, what they could and should do for themselves."

MONTHLY TRIVIA QUIZ

Interested readers may e-mail their answers to this month's questions to the Editor. The member with the earliest set of correct responses received will be recognized in the next Bugle.

1. What WWI officer proposed forming The American Legion?
2. How many Articles (Amendments) did the original Bill of Rights contain as submitted to the States for ratification?
3. What was the common SAW in the Vietnam War?
4. When did the Boston Tea Party take place?
5. If you are "bingo" with an RTB order, what's up?
6. How many times may a Congressman be reelected? How about a Senator?
7. What was the Panay Incident and when did it occur?
8. What is the "Eight and Forty"?
9. How many rounds did a standard M-1 rifle clip hold?
10. Who are the "Chosen Few"?
11. In what year was the SAL formed and what is it?
12. What was the gadget called a "P-38" used for? (Hint: It was frequently worn on dogtag chains or cords.)

(NO GOOGLING PLEASE)

AUXILIARY UNIT NEWS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings!

We had a very productive meeting in September and our membership is climbing to the 70% mark. I am confident that we will make it to the top of the mountain. We currently have seven ladies attending our District 7 meeting in Livingston on Saturday Oct. 9.

Our new mission Operation: We Care is now in full swing. Our National Security Chairman Christina O'Grady has made great strides with her efforts to get care packages to our soldiers in Afghanistan. We currently have 3 schools, 4 preschools and 1 BIG church that is supporting our effort to get these necessary items to our troops. We also have an ACE Hardware that is helping us out with postage expenses for these boxes. It always amazes me that sometimes, you only have to ask. As Veteran's Day is quickly approaching our unit is busy with poppies. We have a poppy day on Nov. 6th and we also are taking 2000 poppies to Anadarko on November 11th. We are also distributing poppies at Anadarko on that day. On Nov. 8th we are going to Oakridge Elementary School to give a presentation on poppies and flag etiquette. On Nov. 10th, we are assisting in a Celebration of Women Veterans

at the VA Hospital in Houston with a "Pampering" party. No one can ever say that the American Legion Auxiliary 305 The Woodlands does not celebrate our veterans. May God bless our heroes fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq and may God bless our veterans. Thank you for your service to our country.

Ann Jones
President
American Legion Auxiliary
305 The Woodlands

TIDDY OGGY AND SPOTTED DICK

The Cookbook Committee is reviewing the recipes received so far and will do nothing to discourage more submittals. But, we have a few we are setting aside because they may seem strange or not as common here in Texas, or in the US, as we would like. The heading above kind of illustrates our point, together with Pebble River Eel, Suet Pudding and Tunisian Tripe.

What we lack, other than numbers of recipes, are the Chili Cook-Off winning dishes from past years. Those of you who walked away with blue ribbons were requested by the Commander to share with the Committee your formulas, unless your concoction is top secret, like; "Open three cans of Wolf's chili con carne and ---". It seems that the only cooks who have conformed are Ev Ison and Jim Bolin, which leaves unresponsive such winners as Watz and Jones. If you are going to repeat your dish in January, you may defer its submission until after that judging meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WHERE?</u>
Sat.	Oct. 9	District 7 Convention	Post 312 in Livingston
Sat.	Oct. 9	Retiree Activities Day	Ellington Field
Sat.	Oct. 16	Auxil. Executive Committee Meeting	Sue Ellen Bannon's Home @ 2:00 PM
Mon.	Oct. 18	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Oct. 21	Joint Octoberfest Picnic in lieu of Mtgs.	Shadowbend Park @ 7:00 PM
Wed.	Oct. 27	Navy Day	
Friday	Oct. 29	Dues Paid Target at 65% (287 members)	
Friday	Oct. 29	Rummage Sale Set Up	Robinson Road Community Center
Sat.	Oct. 30	Rummage Sale	Robinson Road Community Center
Sun.	Oct. 31	Halloween	BOO!
Mon.	Nov. 1	Oratorical Contest Starts	Local High Schools
Tues.	Nov. 2	Mid-term Election Day	Vote ! Vote ! Vote !
Sat.	Nov. 6	Poppy Day Fund-Raiser (Aux.)	Kroger's at Cochran's Crossing
Wed.	Nov. 10	US Marine Corps Established	
Thur.	Nov. 11	Veterans' Day	ANADARCO; Other Sites
Sat.	Nov. 13	Auxil. Executive Committee Meeting	(To Be Announced)
Mon.	Nov. 15	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Nov. 18	Membership Meetings (Boys State Grads)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day	With Family & Friends
Friday	Nov. 26	Dues Paid Target at 75% (332 members)	
Thur.	Dec. 2	Hanukkah Commences	
Tues.	Dec. 7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	
Sat.	Dec. 11	Auxil. Executive Committee Meeting	(To Be Announced)
Mon.	Dec. 13	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Dec. 16	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Sat.	Dec. 25	Christmas Day	With Family & Friends
Sun.	Dec. 26	Kwanzaa	
Friday	Dec. 31	Dues Paid Target at 85% (376 members)	
Sat.	Jan. 1	New Years Day	
Sat.	Jan. 15	Auxil. Executive Committee Meeting	(To Be Announced)
Mon.	Jan. 17	Martin Luther King Day	
Mon.	Jan. 17	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Jan. 20	Membership Meetings (Chili Cook-Off)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM

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