



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 "THE WOODLANDS POST" THE BUGLE



February 2011 Volume 7, Issue 2

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Dear Legionnaires,

It is my sad duty to report that **Donald W. Heuermann** of Garland, Texas, died on Wednesday, January 20th. Donald is the brother of our Past Commander **Emery Heuermann**. Our prayers go to the Heuermann family.

January's meeting was busy, but we also celebrated with some fun with the Annual Chili Cook-off. Congratulations go to **Robert Earl Jones** as the 2011 winner. This year we judged the Ladies Auxiliary, and **Mary Bolin** won the blue ribbon for 2011. Please remember to send the recipes into Win or Brad as they are collecting for the Post and Unit cookbook, one of our fund raisers.

The March meeting will include an initiation of all new members of

Post 305. This will be a special ceremony for all first-year members that have joined our Post. If 2011 is your first year, please come and participate in the ceremony in your honor and let us welcome you officially.

Membership remains an issue and we need those renewals returned to the Post as soon as possible. It will not be long before the 2011 year has ended, and we will begin 2012. I would hate to see your continuous years of service broken.

There is a bill pending in the House of Representatives that Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) introduced which would, among other actions, cut \$4.5 billion from the Department of Veterans Affairs. This is one of several initiatives that Legion membership can voice opinions about in legislation, but such starts with us as individuals.

As a reminder, I request all members update and maintain their information with the Post when changes occur, so that we can correct our records and those of the Department and at National as well.

In closing, remember to pray for our troops and their safety in their ongoing efforts to protect our country.

Our next meeting will be at 7 PM on February 17th at the South County Community Center.

For God and Country,
Everett Ison

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Commander Ison opened the meeting and determined a quorum was present. The Finance Report was given by **Dave Lips**, Finance Officer. Post finances were summarized as: The General Fund total was \$15,632.74 and the Allocated Fund total was \$21,065.50 for a grand total of both funds of \$36,699.24.

The current membership report was given by First Vice Commander **Kimberly Biggerstaff**. As of the January 20th meeting, paid membership stands at 292, which is 66% of our goal. **Commander Ison** will be sending out a mailing to all Legionnaires of general information and a calendar.

The Executive Committee is accepting nominations for Legionnaire-of-the-Year for 2010. Any paid-up Post member wishing to nominate a Post member should submit a nomination by writing a nominating paragraph to **Commander Ison** before the next Executive Committee meeting on February 14th.

Second Vice Commander. **Jim Bolin** reported on the District Oratorical Contest, noting that our entrant, **My Han Nguyen** of Oak Ridge High School, finished third. Jim also reminded all that the next Rummage Sale will be on April 23, with set-up on the day before. **Dave Lips** discussed "Birdies for Charity" and distributed chance entry forms for members and their friends. (See the included article on Birdies for Charity.)

Adjutant **Pickens Jones** reported on another major fund raiser for the Post: Coupon Books. He still has some for sale at \$39.95. At this point, we own the books we have remaining because we have paid the publisher, so any we sell from now on, the money goes right to the Post.

Dayton Denton said that interviews for selecting Boy's State participants will begin the second week in March. If you would like to participate in auditing the interviews, contact Dayton at (832) 928-6054.

Commander Ison selected the following volunteers to be part of the renewed Building Committee: **Dave Lips, Rosalie Fryer, Win Salter** and himself, so far. The Commander also announced that the Seventh District Convention will be in Madisonville on April 16th at Post 84, and that he plans to stand for election to the post of District Commander.

The January business meeting was followed by a "food fight", otherwise known as the Annual Chili Cook-off. This year it was Auxiliary vs. Post, with both units competing. There were five entries by the Auxiliary and six by Post members. Judges of the Unit rated the Post entries and vice versa. The first place winners were Mary Bolin and Earl Jones.

A runner-up was Kim Biggerstaff whose notable entry was made using bear meat!



First Place Winners Robert Earl Jones and Mary Bolin

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

This Department Conference was held on January 19-23. The first couple of days of the Conference were mostly for meetings of the various committees that do most of the work for the Department.

The second part of the Conference was for the meeting of the Department Executive Committee. The members of that are essentially the Department staff and the District and Division commanders. During that part of the Conference, the "Blue Hats", that's us, get to hear about what is going on in The American Legion as it pertains to Texas.

Another part of the Conference is training for the "Blue Hats". This year, the training was a class in the American Legion Extension Institute. Legionnaires that participated in that class took an exam. The results of the exam are sent to national to be graded. If they pass the exam they will be given a pin noting their accomplishment.

Of course there is the fun part. There are always hospitality suites where candidates for office hope to win your support by plying

you with good food and liquid libations.



National Vice Commander Russell Henry and our Kim Biggerstaff

As can be seen by the above photo, there is time for socializing. **Kim Biggerstaff** is caught by our roving reporter bending the ear of a guest, National's Midwest Vice Commander. **Russell Henry**.

The Auxiliary meets at the same time as the Legion and conducts similar business as the Legion. On Sunday a Memorial Service is held for those Legion and Auxiliary members who passed away since the Department Convention in June 2010.

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

One of the Post's fundraising efforts is "Birdies for Charity", a game of chance, where the player attempts to guess the number of birdies that will be made during the Shell Houston Open Golf Tournament. The guess, a \$20 investment, need not be by a Legion member, and members are encouraged to "sell" chances to anyone who will buy one. All the money that is raised by this game of chance is returned to the charity that sells the chance. In this case, that is Post 305. The winning chance or guess will get the keys to a 2011 Toyota Camry

(and the vehicle). Deadline for turn-in of sold chances is our March 17th meeting. Birdies-for-Charity is a major fund raiser for the Post. Please participate if you can. You do not need a printed chance. You can also participate by calling in your guess to Dave Lips at (281) 362-1390, or you can call him for more information.



VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

VA's Homeless Intervention Program Nears Roll Out

A homeless-prevention program by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which seeks to help veterans and their families who are on the verge of becoming homeless, has moved closer to implementation. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Erik K. Shinseki noted the program marks the first time that VA will fund services for spouses and children of veterans at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

The problems that lead to homelessness begin long before veterans and their families are on the streets." said Secretary Shinseki. "By putting more resources into intervention programs for people at risk of becoming homeless, we can reduce suffering and increase the opportunities for turning around these lives."

Shinseki's comments came as the VA formally announced that it is taking applications from private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives interested

in providing needed services to at-risk veterans and their families. With funding from the VA, community organizations will be better able to provide counseling, training, education assistance, direct time-limited financial assistance, transportation, child care, rent, utilities, and other services to participating veterans and family members.

When the Notice of Funds Availability application is available, it will be posted on the Supportive Services for Veteran Families website @ www1.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp. For applicants, grant-writing workshops will be held in several cities, including Houston. Details about the workshops and other information about the program, called Supportive Services for Veterans Families, are available on the Internet at: www1.va.gov/homeless/.

Texas Veterans Land Board Eases Access to Benefits

The VLB has dropped the one-year Texas residency requirement which will make more accessible its low-cost land and home loans; long-term, nursing care; and free burial in a Texas State Veterans

Cemetery. The VLB has begun an aggressive marketing campaign to let veterans know what they have earned. Check in at the website -- www.texasveterans.com .

The Texas tradition of taking care of veterans dates back to the Republic, when those who signed on to fight for independence from Mexico were rewarded with generous tracts of land. The VLB was created in 1946 after Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing \$25 million in bonds to help WWII veterans buy land.

Important Contact Numbers

- Houston Regional VA 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

YOUNGEST VETERAN OF WWII

In August, 1942, **Calvin Graham** walked into a Navy recruiting station in Fort Worth and enlisted. After boot training, he was shipped out to the Pacific where he joined the crew of the *USS South Dakota* as a gunner. He soon saw combat. First came the Battle of Santa Cruz in October. Two weeks later, it was the Battle of Guadalcanal, in which the battleship took 47 hits in a desperate night action. Graham was blown down a ladder by an explosion that peppered his jaw with shrapnel. Though seriously wounded, he worked through the night, fighting fires and pulling fellow shipmates to safety.

After the battle, Graham let slip to his gunnery officer that he lied about his age at enlistment. As a result, the Navy shipped him stateside, put him in the brig for three months, stripped him of his veteran's benefits and gave him a dishonorable discharge. Calvin Graham was 12 years old! Graham's gunnery officer on the *South Dakota*, the officer who turned him in, was **Sargent Schriver**, who later married JFK's sister and recently went to final muster!

AUXILIARY UNIT NEWS



Ann Jones, President

January 2011 rolled into Auxiliary 305 in a sad fashion. The founder of Post and Auxiliary Unit 305, **Rosalie Fryer**, lost her 38 year old son Erik. His death was completely unexpected and the results of his autopsy are pending. Rosalie and her daughter Ursula are taking each day one at a time, as they live through their grief. The Auxiliary would like for them to know that all of our love and arms are wrapped around them. If either of the two needs a shoulder for whatever reason, we are here for them.

The Auxiliary also participated in the memorial service for member **Betty Dettinger**. We said good-bye to Betty on January 21st. **Veronica Maiolo, Joan Charest, Annie Smith, Rosalie Fryer, Mary Bolin, Sue Ellen Bannon**

and I were among the members who participated in our Auxiliary Poppy Memorial Service. It was a lovely service, for a lovely lady. Until we see you again Betty...

Several of our members attended the Mid-Winter Department Convention in Austin, the weekend of January 21-22. It was an informative weekend and I am proud to say that Unit 305 The Woodlands is definitely making a name for themselves in the State of Texas. People do know us as the WOW women (**Women Of the Woodlands**). The ladies who attended this convention, other than me, were **Rosalie Fryer, Sue Ellen Bannon, Mary Bolin and Paula Ison**.

We do have an event scheduled for January 29th at the Kroger at Sterling Ridge in The Woodlands.

This date is to collect items that are needed for the care packages that we send to Afghanistan. We have several new organizations that **Christina O'Grady** has approached to collect for us and we will be having another shipping day at ACE Hardware on Rayford Road in February. Our major fundraiser, our craft show, will be held in the spring and will not be with the Military Families and Friends group. The date that group wanted for the craft show was not workable for the Auxiliary, therefore we have another location almost secured. The information on our craft show will be announced later in February.

We will be visiting area schools in the next couple of months to share flag etiquette and poppy history. Our membership is over 85% to date and we feel sure we will reach the 100% mark very soon.

Happy New Year to all!

Ann Jones

REMINDER: Our Cookbook Committee is still in need of your special recipes, including those chili-con-carne offerings at our cook-offs. Send your contributions to either Mary Bolin or Win Salter. Thanks goes to those members who have already shared so much. The Committee will soon start word-processing, but it has room for additional recipes. And, remember, in the words of Julia Child, "The only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook".

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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 will be recognized in the next Bugle.

1. To what cause is the periodical "Firing Line" directed and who publishes it?
2. In 1976, the Legion's National Convention was marred by the outbreak of a strange bacterial disease, which became thereafter "Legionnaires Disease" or legionellosis. In what hotel in what city was the source of the bug found?
3. USAAF Colonel Paul W. Tibbet piloted the B-29 "Enola Gay" which delivered the first A-bomb to Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Three days later, Major Charles W. Sweeney did likewise with Nagasaki as the target. What was his B-29 called?
4. In the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution, for how many "purposes" do we associate ourselves?
5. What brought attention to Sarah Barney Belcher of Taunton, Massachusetts?
6. What was the maximum number of stripes in the Stars & Stripes at one time and how many stars did it have?
7. What leading actor from "Gone with the Wind" was fatally shot down by German fighters in June 1943?
8. The US was invaded by British forces during the

War of 1812. When and where was the second invasion of US continental territory?

January Quiz Answers

1. In 1954, Armistice Day was officially renamed Veterans Day by Congressional action.
2. The 20th "Lame Duck" Amendment (ratified in 1933) changed the dates upon which the just-elected President, Vice President and electees to Congress assume office. The Constitution originally stated it would be the first Monday in December or as Congress may decree. The time decided for most swearing ins had been March 3, but this Amendment fixed the date at January 3rd for Congressmen and at January 20th for the President and Vice President.
3. The first American Legion Boys State assembly was in Illinois in the summer of 1935.
4. The *USS Constitution* ("Old Ironsides") was saved from demolition in 1830 by publication of the poem, "Old Ironsides", written by Oliver Wendell Holmes in the Boston Daily Advertiser. The resulting popular outrage reversed the Navy's plan.
5. Italy declared war on Nazi Germany in October 1943, after Mussolini was overthrown (July) and Italy surrendered to the Allies (September).
6. A Legionnaire wearing a blue cap with a white crown is an officer at the District level.
7. When a US Navy ship (or any ship) crosses the equator a shipboard ceremony traditionally takes place wherein King Neptune and his Court (including Davy Jones and Amphitrite) indoctrinate "pollywogs" into his Realm whereby

they become "shellbacks", sons of Neptune.

8. Some servicemen referred to the USO as meaning "Uncle Sam's Orphanage".

THE DOMINO WAR PREDICTOR

Frank Meeks owned 60 Domino pizza franchises in the DC area. He was famous for keeping a close eye on pizza orders. The night before the Persian Gulf War began, Meeks noticed a sharp demand in the number of late-night pizza orders coming from the White House, the Pentagon and the State Department. White House pizza orders soared with more than 50 pies ordered between 10:00 PM and 2:00 AM. Meeks had seen the same thing happen the night before the invasions of Grenada and Panama. He was sure this meant war again, so he called the local media and put out the word. At 5:00 AM, on Wednesday, January 16, 1991, the word flashed out from Washington, war with Iraq was imminent, likely to begin within hours. Sure enough, later that day tanks were rolling and bombs were falling.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WHERE?</u>
Thur.	Feb. 3	USAT Dorchester Torpedoed (1943)	
Sun.	Feb. 6	Four Chaplains Sunday	
Mon.	Feb. 14	Valentines Day	Candy, flowers & new car
Mon.	Feb. 14	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Feb. 17	Membership Meetings (Four Chaplains)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Mon.	Feb. 21	Dept. Oratorical Contest	Blinn College, Brenham Campus
Mon.	Feb. 21	Presidents' Day	
Fri.	Feb. 25	Dues Paid Target at 95% (420 members)	
Week of	Mar. 6	Boys' State Candidate Interviews	To Be Determined
Sun.	Mar. 13	Daylight Saving Time Begins	"Spring back"
Mon.	Mar. 14	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Tues.	Mar. 15 to	American Legion Birthday Recognition	
Thur.	Mar. 17	and Post 100% Membership Awards	
Thur.	Mar. 17	Membership Meetings (Initiations)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day	
Sun.	Mar. 20 to	National Conference	Washington, DC
Wed.	Mar. 23		
Fri.	Mar. 25	Dues Paid Target at 98% (433 members)	
Mon.	Apr. 18	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Apr. 21	Membership Meetings (Nominations)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Apr. 22	Rummage Sale Set-up	Robinson Road Community Center
Sat.	Apr. 23	Semi-annual Rummage Sale	Robinson Road Community Center
Sun.	Apr. 24	Easter Sunday	

The Post and Auxiliary Unit meet at the **South County Community Center** in The Woodlands at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month. The Unit hosts a potluck supper following the meetings. The Center is located on the corner at the intersection of **Lake Robbins Drive** and **Grogans Mill Road**.

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