



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 "THE WOODLANDS POST" THE BUGLE



May 2011

Volume 7, Issue 5

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Dear Legionnaires',

I want to take this time to thank each of you for the vote of confidence toward my election as your new 7th District Commander. While I do not begin to serve until June, I have many matters to prepare for in this challenging role, as we enter the new term. I have seen our membership drop in the last couple of years, and I plan to make membership a priority. I have asked that we develop a training plan and travel to each Post in the District so that we can assist each to maintain membership. Again: Thank You!!

A primary purpose of this issue is to inform each member of the officer nominations for 2011-2012. The Nominating Committee, chaired by **Kim Biggerstaff**, has produced the slate boxed here.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to the election should anyone else like to offer other candidates or run for office.

If you are nominating anyone, you must be present at the meeting or have a letter of acceptance filed with Adjutant **Pickens Jones** prior to the meeting. You must be present to vote. Any new officer must have a DD Form 214 available for the Adjutant, as there is information on that which needs to be sent to Department. I would like to thank **Kim Biggerstaff** for leading the Nominating Committee and for a job well done.

like for you to take time and look over the events and participate in at least one of these. These include supporting the Auxiliary as they have been busy preparing for "Riding For Veterans", the poker motorcycle run on May 21st. We

also have Memorial Day events that include Houston National Cemetery and Forest Park Cemetery. I will bring up at the next meeting whether we would like to perform a small ceremony at Copperwood Apartments, as was done in the past. I will be sending out an email notice if this is approved by the membership.

If you have not paid your dues, you need to take care of it ASAP! The renewals for 2012 will be mailed very soon, and I would not like to see your continuous service membership broken.

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 May 19th at the South County Community Center.

For God and Country,
Everett Ison

OFFICER NOMINEES

Commander: Kim Biggerstaff

1st Vice Commander:

Emery Heuermann

2nd Vice Commander:

Everett Ison

Adjutant: Pickens Jones

Finance Officer: David Lips

Judge Advocate:

Joe Hammond

Historian: Win Salter

Chaplain: Jerry Mulvihill

Sergeant-at-Arms: Jim Bolin

Service Officer:

Dayton Denton

Executive Committee

Members-at-Large:

Mickey Fussell

Stephen O'Driscoll

The month of May has always been a busy month, and I would

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(April 21, 2011)

Commander **Ison** opened the meeting and determined a quorum was present. He then asked if there were any guests. Sergeant-at-Arms, **Earl Jones** introduced **Steve Holsinger**, a long time member of the Post at his first meeting. The Finance Officer, **Dave Lips**, gave the following report of the finances: The General Fund total was \$16,411 and the Allocated Fund total was \$21,470, for a grand total of both funds of \$37,881. The current membership report was given by First Vice Commander **Kim Biggerstaff**. As of the meeting, paid membership stands at 319, which is 72% of our goal of 442.

Second Vice Commander. **Jim Bolin** reported on preparations for the coming Rummage Sale which will be held on April 23, with set-up on the day before. He passed around a list for the membership to sign up for work shifts during the Rummage Sale. [After the sale, Comrade Bolin reported the gross receipts at \$1,504.49.] **Dave Lips** reported that "Birdies for Charity" fund drive ended with the Post donating \$1646.46 and the Auxiliary donating \$814.32. When this money is collected from the people that pledged, it will be returned to the Post and Auxiliary, probably sometime in August. Adjutant **Pickens Jones** reported that all the Coupon Books have been sold for a profit of \$1040.

Dayton Denton reported that the Post has selected 12 boys to attend Boys State in June. Four boys from Woodlands High School, three from College Park High, three from Oak Ridge High, one from John Cooper, and one home schooled boy. One of the

boys from the Woodlands H.S. is sponsored by the school, and the home-schooled boy was paid for by the Home School Association. The Post raised the money for the other ten. That total is the largest number of boys we have ever sent to Boys State. Comrade Denton also reported that the VA will be starting Home Health Care shortly.

We voted to donate \$100 to Operation Military Embrace. They are an all volunteer group that helps the entire family when a wounded warrior returns home and needs help. They have practically no overhead costs and do really great things. You can look them up on the Internet. The Post also voted to purchase a \$1,000,000 general liability insurance policy for a premium cost of \$505 per year.

Next month we hold elections and a slate has been offered. If you are running for office you must be present at the elections or have a proxy in writing attesting that you are willing to serve in the office for which you are running. Nominations will be accepted from the floor if the above rules are followed.



VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

HOUSTON - Are you tired of leaving messages or playing phone tag with your VA health care provider? A new secure, online communication tool called "Secure Messaging" is now

available for veterans at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) through the VA's "My HealtheVet" website at www.myhealth.va.gov

This new communication tool offers guaranteed response to routine matters and a direct line to your health care provider. With Secure Messaging, patients have 24-hour access to their Health Care Team, feel more in control of their care, and enjoy personalized attention from their health care provider. In early July 2011, Secure Messaging will also be available at the VA outpatient facilities in Beaumont, Conroe, Galveston, Lufkin, Richmond, and Texas City. For health care providers, this access improves the patient/provider collaboration by increasing the opportunities for information sharing. More importantly, Secure Messaging minimizes telephone tag, saves time, and uses the VA's electronic patient record system to streamline record keeping. For more info, contact Curtis Bergeron, My HealtheVet Coordinator at 713-791-1414, ext 6348, or curtis.bergeron@va.gov.

Important Contact Numbers

Houston Regional VA Office:

1-713-383-7842

My HealtheVet Coordinator:

1-713-791-1414; Ext. 6348

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

AUXILIARY UNIT NEWS



Ann Jones, President

The Auxiliary has been busy gathering items for our fundraiser coming up on May 21st. We have some great motorcycle items, as well as restaurant gift certificates, dart sets, billiards items, poker and barbecue baskets and much more. **Rosalie Fryer** has also acquired a Marriott Hotel gift certificate. Our ladies are doing a wonderful job spreading the word about this event and gathering donations. We are going to have one fabulous silent auction. **Rosalie** is organizing the auction and, with her touch, I know it will be a big success.

Kim Biggerstaff will run our dart tournament and Gerry Mulvihill is going to handle our horseshoe tournament. We need a card dealer, and it is such an easy job

-- anybody can do it. We still need some help at our "stops". All you need to do is sit there, have a refreshment, listen to some music, hand out tickets to our bikers and maybe sell a tee-shirt or two. Bring a friend and chill out! This is another seriously easy job! We have paid registrants as of today and I expect many more will be forthcoming. Our roadside "stops" are doing a great job of advertising, and our tee-shirts are getting noticed. Thanks again **Win** for your artistic capability and gift! Speaking of tee-shirts, we have great "Riding for Veterans" tee-shirts for sale for \$15.00. **Win Salter's** artwork graces the back of this shirt. These shirts will be \$20.00 at the event, so get them now before we sell out. This is the event – **Rosalie** and maybe even **Sue Ellen Bannon** on a Harley! You don't want to miss this one.



RUMMAGE SALES PICTURES



AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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TROUBLE ON THE BORDER

U.S. Army Troops Ordered to Mexican Border

Columbus, New Mexico Territory—March 14, 1916:

“Approximately 12,000 troops with forty mountain and field gun batteries were on the border tonight between Douglas, Arizona and El Paso, Texas, a line about 200 miles long. A little more than one third of this force was cavalry.

“Troop trains bearing cavalrymen, infantrymen, artillery, signal and hospital detachments, and several trainloads of freight unloaded here today. Lumbering gray army wagons rumbled all day through clouds of dust, each wagon piled high with supplies such as arms, ammunition, knapsacks, boxes of uniforms, shoes, blankets, forage and food.”

That article appeared in the *New York Times*. From 1910 to 1916, Mexico was embroiled in a violent revolution, with opposing political and military forces struggling for control of the country. President Taft sent a large military force into Texas and stationed them along the Rio Grande River to protect Americans in the region. This show of American military force caused Mexican militants to redirect their violence from their own countrymen to Americans. In 1913, when Wilson became president, he denounced the new revolutionary Mexican government and refused to recognize it as legitimate. As a result of his position, violence toward American residents along the border intensified and there were incidents of murder, robbery, kidnapping for ransom and property destruction.

In response to the violence, Wilson sent 4,800 army troops under Brigadier General John Pershing to defend the border towns and their citizens. On February 24, 1913, fighting commenced along the border near Brownsville, Texas, and on March 2, Mexicans attacked U.S. troops near Douglas, Arizona. Skirmishes continued throughout 1914. In 1915, Mexico elected a new president, Senor Venustiano Carranza, who had one major opponent – a bandit-turned-revolutionary, named Francisco “Pancho” Villa. Wilson’s recognition of Carranza’s constitutional government created an enemy in Villa.

In October 1915, bandits tore up six miles of railroad track north of Brownsville, then lay in wait for an approaching train. The train was derailed, the engineer killed and the passengers robbed and two were killed. The most serious incident occurred in January 1916, when 17 American employees of the ASARCO Company were removed from a train at Santa Isabel, Chihuahua, and executed.

An increasing number of border incidents in 1916 culminated in the first invasion of American territory since 1812. On March 8, Villa with a force of more than 500 men attacked the U.S. Army’s Camp Furlong, then raided Columbus, New Mexico. Elements of the 13th Cavalry repulsed the attack, but Villa’s force killed 18 Americans, men and women, including 10 soldiers. Ninety raiders were killed; 23 wounded. The U.S. was quick to respond. Pershing then commenced what was called a Punitive Expedition, invading Chihuahua province as deep as

300 miles searching for Villa and his forces.

In June 1916, Lieutenant George S. Patton raided a small community and killed Julio Cardenas, an important leader in the Villista military organization, and two other men. Patton personally killed Cardenas and is reported to have carved notches in his revolvers. In July, U.S. forces, including the 7th and 10th Cavalry regiments, attacked Mexican Federal army troops, resulting in many U.S. cavalry troops becoming prisoners of the Federales. Another such skirmish, on April 12, caused President Carranza to send General Jacinto Trevino to Pershing, informing him that any further U.S. operations in Mexico would bring armed resistance by Federal troops. The bulk of American forces were withdrawn in January 1917.

Pershing publically proclaimed the expedition was a success, but privately he complained that the President had imposed too many restrictions which made it impossible to fulfill his mission.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WHERE?</u>
Mon.	May 16	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	May 19	Membership Meetings (Elections)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Sat.	May 21	Armed Forces Day	
Sat.	May 21	Auxiliary "Riding For Veterans" Fundraiser	RACS Icehouse; FM 1488 @ Noon
Fri.	May 27 to	Division 2 Convention	Hilton Hotel, 113 So. University Parks Dr.
Sunday	May 29		Waco, TX 76701
Mon.	May 30	Memorial Day	Wreath Laying @ Houston National Cemetery
Sat.	June 4 to	Boys State Program	University of Texas, Austin
Fri.	June 10		
Mon.	June 6	D-Day / Invasion of Europe (1944)	
Mon.	June 13	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	June 16	Membership meetings (Installations)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Wed.	June 22 to	Dept. of Texas Convention	Odessa
Sun.	June 26		
Fri.	July 1	First 2012 Dues Renewal Notice Mailed	
Mon.	July 4	Independence Day	Parade Day
Mon.	July 18	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	July 21	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM

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**. All members and guests are WELCOME, and you must be aboard to vote!



A GRATEFUL NATION SALUTES YOU !

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MEMORIAL DAY --- 2011

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast. And, he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past. Of wars he once fought in and the deeds that he had done, in his exploits with his buddies – they were heroes every one!

And though sometimes to his neighbors the tales became a joke, his buddies listened quietly, for they knew whereof he spoke. But, we'll hear his tales no longer, for ol' Bob has passed away, and the world's a little poorer, for A SOLDIER DIED TODAY!

He won't be mourned by many, just his children and his wife, for he lived an ordinary, very quiet, sort of life. He held a job and raised a family, going quietly on his way. And, the world won't note his passing, though A SOLDIER DIED TODAY!

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state, while thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great. Papers tell of their life stories from the time that they were young, but the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.



He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin, but his presence should remind us we may need his like again. For when countries are in conflict, we find the soldier's part is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise, then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days! Perhaps just a simple headline in the paper that might say: "OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING --- A SOLDIER DIED TODAY!"

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The Woodlands Texas 77387

Return Service Requested

«MUFNAM» «MULNAM»
«MUADR1»
«MUCITY» «MUSTAT» «MUZIP»