



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305
“THE WOODLANDS POST”
THE BUGLE



June 2011

Volume 7, Issue 6

COMMANDER’S CORNER



My Fellow Legionnaires,

This will be my last newsletter as your Commander. My term as Commander ends at the end of June. I would like to express my appreciation to all of the Legionnaires and volunteers who have given of their time and resources over the past two years, making my job easy and rewarding. I am looking forward to working with our new Commander, **Kimberly Biggerstaff**, in whatever capacity she can use me.

I wish to thank all of the Post members who assisted the Ladies Auxiliary on a successful “Riding for Veterans” fundraiser that was held May 21st. This ride had unintended challenges as it followed about half of the same route as the Ironman Competition. I am sure that President **Ann Jones** will have information from

the Auxiliary on the final tally, but I just wanted to make sure that you knew that I appreciated the support you showed.

I would like to remind everyone of the Department Convention which will take place in Odessa, Texas on June 22nd through the 26th. This is always a good time to learn what goes on behind the scenes to assist the Post but also sets goals and challenges for the new year.

Please pray for our Military Service Personnel as they continue to protect our country.

For God and County,
Everett Ison
 Commander

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(May 19, 2011)

Commander Ison opened the meeting and determined a quorum was present. He then called for review and approval of last month’s minutes, and it was done. The Finance Officer, **Dave Lips**, gave the following summary of Post finances as of the end of April: The General Fund stood at \$15,947; the Allocated Fund at \$21,470 (\$4,482 in the money market; and \$16,898 as CD’s); for Total Assets of \$37,417. First Vice Commander **Kimberly Biggerstaff** gave the membership report.

Including the PUFL’s, paid membership stands at 327 or 74% of the 442 goal, however, Adjutant **Jones** said he had six payments not yet forwarded. The challenge of goal attainment was pointed up by a May total membership printout showing the Post had 436 members, six less than the goal!

Historian **Win Salter** reported he was devoting time to completing the Post history and scrapbooks. **Mickey Fussell** referred to preparations for the July 4th parade. A trailer has been secured and an open pick-up truck will pull it. The same classic T-bird will be used as last year. The small flags to hand out are on hand, and a new front banner has been procured. The Commander then appointed **Fussell** Parade Committee Chair and that brought up “chairs”. The new Chair wants new chairs – not the mixed bag of striped lawn chairs borrowed in the past. He recommended steel, folding chairs or padded stackable chairs. Options will be researched, but chairs need filling to make our appearance a success. Discussion followed about extraordinary effort to enlist members from a couple of senior homes, making phone calls and visits, and offering to/from carpooling. Also, *The Bugle* will “sound Assembly” to mobilize the troops. Boys State grads will be asked to parade and help

distribute flags to youngsters along the curbs.

The Sergeant-at-Arms introduced one guest, a potential recruit, Robert Anderson, a USAF veteran with Vietnam service recovering and patching up downed aircraft. Attention was also called to member **Lacey Homan** back from Iraq where she served as chief-of-staff in a medical brigade.

The Commander cited the Post's delegates to the Department Convention in Odessa: Comrades **Ison, Biggerstaff, Bolin, Bannon** and **Mulvihill**. To the Division 2 Convention, it will be **Ison, Biggerstaff, and Bannon**. Under New Business, open options for recognizing Memorial Day were described, including trooping the colors and escorting the Auxiliary's wreath laying at the Houston National Cemetery.. A \$500 scholarship has been awarded to Nicole Kruijs, a student at College Park High.

Election of officers for 2011-2012 was held. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee was elected by acclamation after any added nominations were invited for each position. A flag disposal ceremony is scheduled at the next meeting, starting at 6:30 PM. First Vice Commander **Kim Biggerstaff** reminded everyone that the Auxiliary's fundraiser "Riding for Veterans" was on May 21 and more Post members were needed at the four biker stops to help out.

WELCOME COMMANDER KIM BIGGERSTAFF

Kimberly Biggerstaff Keng will soon command Post 305. She is the first woman commander of the Post. Kimberly joined Post 305 in June 1999 and was soon in the officer corps, entering as an Executive Committee Member-at-

Large under Commander **George Bannon**. She has held various offices, most recently First Vice Commander. In that role, she has represented the Post well at District, Division and Department conventions and other assemblies. She was recently elected as District 7's Sergeant-at-Arms. Kimberly is following in the footsteps of her grandfather, Ray T. Biggerstaff, who served as Commander of Dale Mabry Post 139, Tampa, Florida.

Kimberly served over nine years in the US Air Force as a security (military) policeman, rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant. She had assignments in Germany, England, Italy, Saudi Arabia and New Mexico. She and her husband, Bubba, have two daughters, one of whom is autistic.

Kimberly serves as a member of the Post's Color Guard and, no doubt, will continue to "troop the colors" on occasion. So, we, the members of Post 305, salute Commander Biggerstaff in her new leadership role and pledge to support her as she continues to strengthen the Post.



VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

Death By Luckies

Some of you old salts will recall the slogan, "Lucky Strike Green Has Gone To War!" Well we all went to war at one time at least. The tobacco company in WWII was just changing its packaging, not so much as to delete the green, but to omit the gold-colored

foil which was needed for the war effort. But, most of us experienced more cigarette smoking in the service than we did before we joined up.

Smoking is a chronic condition which affects every organ of your body. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 443,000 deaths are caused each year by cigarette smoking. This is more than HIV, illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined. Smoking is the cause of 90 percent of all lung cancer deaths in men and 80 percent in women.

Smoking is an addiction, and one that can be very difficult to break. For many veterans, cigarettes came hand-in-hand with serving in the military. In fact, cigarettes were once standard issue in C-rations. How many times have you heard; "If you've got 'em, smoke 'em, but field-strip them butts"?

Although cigarette use declined from 1965 to 2005 in the United States, one study revealed that the prevalence of smoking to be 40 percent higher in veterans than in the general population. A more recent report (by Bastian & Sherman) showed that "U.S. service members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan smoke at double the rate of other Americans."

But, there is hope. Smoking can be treated with a combination of counseling and pharmacotherapy/medications and/or counseling alone. The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center is committed to providing our veterans with smoking cessation options. Smoking cessation groups and related medications are completely free.

For details, contact:
Mera Holloway-Paulino, Health Behavior Coordinator, at 713-791-1414, ext. 5082

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

**SAVE THAT STAMP AND
BY-PASS SNAIL MAIL**

Effective in July with the 2012 membership year, Post members will have the opportunity to pay their dues on-line. Members will be given more details with their first renewal notice, so watch your mail. The Post also will be getting more information on this new option. (This will give **Adjutant Jones** another routine to work out and accommodate.)

**JULY 4TH PARADE
CALL TO ARMS**

On July 4th, in celebration of our hard-won freedom from oppression, the Post will once again appear in The Woodlands Parade. The challenge is to improve the presentation of Post 305 – better than last year, where the Post and Auxiliary turnout was disappointing. Parade Chairman Mickey Fussell, and such helpers as he can enlist, are working to make our unit more impressive. The leading banner, the color

guard and the classic convertible will be the same, but the “float” and its cargo is where the Post needs improvement.

1. The vehicle pulling the trailer-float will be an open pickup truck affording space in its bed for a sound system playing marches, a DJ and a few riders.
2. The float will carry a new banner, better decorations, and better and more seating.
3. The chairs need to be occupied by more Post and Unit members -- a larger turnout. To attract more folks to participate, reminders, rides to/from the marshaling site, and other inducements are planned.
4. The Chairman is asking as many paraders as possible to wear some representation of their wartime service – BDU's, class A uniform, dress uniform, whatever you still have and can fit into. If such “re-enactment” is not possible, wear your Legion garb, but at least a white shirt, dark slacks or skirts and a uniform cap or ballcap.
5. Several able-bodied paraders will be asked to help to distribute small American flags to children along the route. Some of our Boys State grads will be invited to serve the cause as runners.
6. Try not to find an excuse to skip this parade. Let's win again the honors received in the past as best military unit! And, pray for fair or just overcast weather.

MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

A late printout list of Post 305's members, showed the Post had 438 members on the Register. An analysis of the membership as listed creates a “profile” of the Post at that point in time. Readers may be curious to see what comprises the Post.

Dues-Paid Status:

~ Paid for current year-----338*
*(Includes 36 PUFL's)
~Last paid in 2009-2010---- 48
~Last paid in 2008-2009---- 52

Continuous Membership:

~1 to 5 years -----189
~6 to 10 years -----137
~11 to 15 years ----- 49
~16 to 20 years ----- 28
~21 to 25 years ----- 22
~26 to 30 years ----- 6
~31 to 40 years ----- 3
~41 to 50 years ----- 2
~51 to 60 years ----- 0
~Over 60 years ----- 2

First War Era:

~World War II ----- 61
~Korean War ----- 70
~Vietnam-----229
~Lebanon-Grenada -----17
~Panama -----11
~Persian Gulf -----31
~(Not listed) -----19

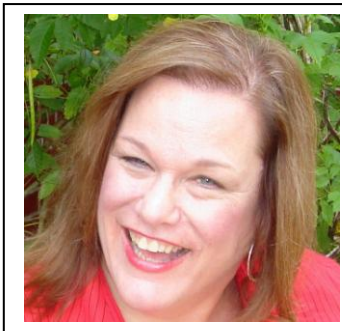
Branch of Service:

~Army -----164
~Navy ----- 85
~Marine Corps ----- 44
~Air Force ----- 98
~Coast Guard ----- 5
~Merchant Marine ----- 0
~(Not listed) ----- 42

Residency Location:

~Montgomery/ Northern Harris counties -----393
~Other Greater Houston -- 14
~Other Texas Locations ---15
~Out of State ----- 16

AUXILIARY UNIT NEWS



Ann Jones, President

RIDING FOR VETERANS

It has been a busy month for the Auxiliary. I am very proud to announce that our fundraiser, "Riding for Veterans", was a huge success. The majority of the ladies that regularly attend our meetings came together as a unit and put this new event together. We not only got a return on all of our expenses, but as of today we are over \$1,000.00 on the profit side. RACS Icehouse was extremely pleased and would like to sponsor us once again. The conflicting Ironman event was our biggest obstacle, but we prevailed in the end. We had one mishap with one rider losing control of his motorcycle. He did end up in the emergency room with a broken foot and a busted up knee. **Commander Ison** told my husband and myself; "He's more upset with busting up his bike, because it was only six months old".

I would like to say a big thank you to **Dayna Salter**, who spent many hours working on this event. She also provided 98% of the copying for this event. **Geri Mulvihill** single handedly brought in close to \$400.00 at the event itself. She was on her feet the entire time at RACS. Thank

you to all of the women supporting and working this event --- **Rosalie Fryer** (our auction lady), **Christina O'Grady**, **Eileen O'Grady**, **Sue Ellen Bannon**, **The Mulvihill Family** (**Jerry, Mary Lee, Geri, Jenny and Mary Kay**), **Chuck and Mary Lou Suhr** (our registrars), **Carl and Annie Smith**, **Gene and Joe Watz** (our dealers), **Jennifer Jones**, **Win Salter**, **Stephanie Marshall** and her sister, **Joan Charest**, **Commander-Elect Kim Biggerstaff**, **Sandy Holzinger**, **Joan Sparks**, **Carrie Campbell** and **Veronica Maiolo**.



Mary Lou Suhr at Register Table



Ev Ison Signs In

Because of these men and women, the unit is able to continue its programs to support veterans, their families and active military. They never lost sight as to the reason behind our fundraising endeavor. A big thank you is given to all of the establishments and individuals who

donated their services and products to help support our veterans. I would like to say one last thank you to **Richard Jones**. Richard is not a member of the Post or the Auxiliary, yet he supports both organizations wholeheartedly and was a full third partner in chairing this event. His support of our American veterans and military is immense.

Well done ALA Unit 305! I am very proud to be your President.

ALA GOOD DEED AWARD

Last night, I presented the National American Legion Auxiliary Texas Good Deed Award representing, "Service, Not Self", to a young lady in the 7th grade at Bammel Middle School. ALA members were asked to submit nominations to the Department, and Unit 305's nominee was selected to receive this award.

The recipient of this award was chosen by the teachers of Bammel Middle School. Their description of the Good Deed -- in part -- follows; "It is not one heroic act or single deed that has been performed, but an overall dedication, commitment, respect and compassion that has been shown throughout the year to this youth's classmates that have intellectual disabilities. While not only being a devoted member of 'Meet in the Middle', this student also works with and helps classmates in 'Partner's P.E.'. She also takes the time to speak and laugh with her close friends involved in the special education program during her lunch period."

It turns out that this award was indeed a very special award, as our recipient is a ward of the state. She was severely physically abused as a young child and now lives in a group home. In other words, she does not and never has lived within a traditional home. She walked slowly to the stage to receive her award with her head down. I noticed she had burn scars on her legs and she was very hesitant to make eye contact. She had walked to the stage several times previously to accept an award, as she won several scholastic awards. This child has overcome insurmountable odds in her young lifetime. Somewhere inside of her heart, she knew what "Service, Not Self", meant. She understands the needs of the disadvantaged because she has lived it most of her young life.

This was a very proud moment for me, as President of the American Legion Auxiliary 305, The Woodlands. This young lady should be an example to all of us as to what "Service, Not Self" is really about.

Ann Jones
President

AUXILIARY OFFICERS-ELECT
FOR 2011 – 2012

President: Ann Jones
Vice Pres.: Dayna Salter
Treasurer: Jackie Jones
Historian: Stephanie Marshall
Chaplain: Mary Lee Mulvihill
Parliamentarian Sue Ann Bannon*
Sgt.-at-Arms: Christina O’Grady
Executive Committee Members-at-Large:
Jackie Ulmer
Sandy Holzinger
Geri Mulvihill
***(Appointed)**

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

On Memorial Day, the Post Color Guard and representatives of the Auxiliary reported for duty at Houston National Cemetery, as in years before, and helped in the ceremony in recognition of our fallen heroes. The Color Guard Unit was comprised of **Robert Earl Jones** (US Flag), **Pickens Jones** (American Legion Flag) and the two flanking riflemen –

Kimberly Biggerstaff and **Jim Bolin**. **Ann Jones** and **Dayna Salter** of the Auxiliary placed a wreath during the service, and Commander-Elect **Biggerstaff** addressed service members, other unit members and guests saying; "Honoring our fallen soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines on this day of remembrance is a small token compared to their ultimate sacrifice in safeguarding our great nation."



OUTGOING AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT: Ann Jones; Tel: (281) 620-4052; email: <aejones222@aol.com>
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SECRETARY: Liz Heuermann; (281) 362-8431; email: <lizheuermann@peoplepc.com>
TREASURER: Jenny Le; Tel: (281) 907-0493; email: <jmlchirp@yahoo.com>
HISTORIAN: Stephanie Marshall; Tel: (832) 367-2909; email: <edaymemories@hotmail.com>
CHAPLAIN: Mary Lee Mulvihill; Tel: (281) 353-5574; email: <mlmchirp@yahoo.com>
PARLIMENTARIAN: Sue Ellen Bannon; Tel: (281) 298-1588; email: <sebannon@comcast.net>
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Annie Smith; Tel: (281) 367-4714; email: <c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com>
MEMBER.-AT-LARGE: Joan Sparks; Tel: (281)355-7772; email: <jzremo@netzero.net>
MEMBER.-AT-LARGE: Mary Bolin; Tel: (281) 251-2352; email: <jpb20006@sbcglobal.net>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WHERE?</u>
Sat.	June 4 to Fri. June 10	Boys State Program	University of Texas, Austin
Mon.	June 6	D-Day / Invasion of Europe (1944)	
Mon.	June 13	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Tues.	June 14	Flag Day	
Thur.	June 16	Flag Disposal Ceremony	South County Community Ctr. @ 6:30 PM
Thur.	June 16	Membership Meetings (Installations)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Sun.	June 19	Fathers Day	
Wed.	June 22 to Sun. June 26	Dept. of Texas Convention	Odessa, Texas
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
Wed.	July 27	Korean War Cease Fire (1953)	
Mon.	Aug. 1	Air Force Day	
Sun.	Aug. 14	VJ Day (1945)	
Mon.	Aug. 15	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Aug. 18	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Mon.	Sept. 5	Labor Day	
Sun.	Sept. 11	Patriot Day	
Mon.	Sept. 12	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Sept. 15	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Sept. 16	POW/MIA Recognition Day	

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**.

OUTGOING POST OFFICERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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