



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305
“THE WOODLANDS POST”
THE BUGLE



September 2011 Volume 7, Issue 9

COMMANDER’S CORNER



Cdr. Kimberly Biggerstaff

Greetings fellow Legionnaires~~

It’s a brand new school year, and I hope all those with children and/or grandchildren in school all the best for a wonderful school year. Speaking of school, I want to thank **Lacey Homan** for volunteering to be our Oratorical Chair. She’ll be working with the local high schools to recruit students for The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. As stated in the Chairman’s Guide, “This contest was developed primarily to instill a better knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States in high school students.” Scholarships are awarded to students who win at different levels of the contest. At the National Level, an \$18,000 scholarship is awarded to the first-place winner. We look

forward to hearing **Lacey’s** reports in future meetings.

We have some Legion conventions that are approaching. The Fall Department Executive Committee Convention will be in Austin, September 22-25. The District 7 Convention will be at Crockett Post 134 in October. We will be sending delegates or representatives to both. At the District Convention, the Post that donates the most items (by weight) for the benefit of Homeless Vets will win the Traveling Trophy. Our Post elected to contribute “move-in” tubs, containing cleaning supplies, dishes, utensils, pots and pans etc., things a veteran would need when moving into an apartment or home. Please bring such items to our September meeting or get them to a Post officer before the convention on October 15.

I will soon appoint a committee of Post and Unit members to look into the possibility of our hosting the District 7 Convention in April 2012. Since we don’t have a post home, there are more logistical issues to consider than for a post that does have a home. Our Post has hosted these conventions in the past, but we need to make sure it is feasible at this time to do so again. Hosting a well-run convention is a good way to get our name out there.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

In this issue, it seemed almost necessary to include an article about that day of infamy. Then, we saw Alan Dowd’s wonderful treatment of the anniversary in the current “The American Legion Magazine”. There’s nothing we could print which would add to that review. All Post members are encouraged to read Dowd’s fine tribute.

Our October meeting will be what we call Octoberfest. We will have a very short meeting and then a picnic. This meeting is held at Shadowbend Park on Lake Woodlands Drive. It’s a time to relax, so feel free to bring the family. We will need someone to bring drinks this year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact chefmeister Dave Lips at 281-362-1390.

The next meeting is on September 15 at the South County Community Center at 7:00 PM. Come with your move-in tub gifts!

For God and Country,
Kimberly Biggerstaff

ADVICE FROM FIRST VICE COMMANDER

Greetings,

Well, I am into my second month as your newly elected First Vice Commander and attended my first Executive Committee meeting in the 2011-2012 year. It was an eye opener to say the least. We talked about a lot of things, but something that really jumped out for me is this. Do you know that Post 305 has almost \$38,000 in the bank? Like you, at the meetings, all I ever hear is we don't have money to do this or do that, but in reality we do have money. It seems that a lot of our money is "frozen" by something called "allocated funds". This seems to take precedence over actively supporting our membership needs in a current setting. At the moment I'm not sure what these funds accomplish. Am I being controversial by saying this. I certainly don't mean to be, and I may have misinterpreted some of the things I was hearing. One thing is certain, in my opinion, the annual gross income to the Post is much greater than that presented to the membership in the annual budget. Although I'm not an accountant, it seems all the expenses and income to the Post are not shown as they actually are, but rather "netted" out. I don't understand that, and it could easily be ignorance on my part. The bottom line annual net income to the Post may still be the same, but it is confusing. This budget affects our membership in a huge way, so please take a look and form your own opinion. Our annual budget is open to the members.

By the way, these comments are from my perspective as your new First Vice Commander. There may be reasons we can't do more Post-supported membership activities that I am unaware of. Stay

tuned, I will have more to report next month, as I continue to learn, assuming I'm not fired immediately for asking too many questions.

Coming back to the Executive Committee meetings, I encourage you to attend these very important meetings, where much of Post 305 business is conducted. All Post members are invited. To attend, you must be current on your dues, will have no vote and must be recognized by **Chairman Biggerstaff** before you can speak, but you can be a wall sitter. It is interesting and I encourage you to attend and become an active partner in learning how our Post functions. You won't be disappointed. It's a great group of officers working hard for you. Look at the website www.alpost305.org to see when and where the next meeting is. You can also go to our new Facebook Group page. Just go to www.facebook.com and do a search for American Legion Post 305 TX, and you're there.

Now for the mundane. As of August 15, 2011, we have 189 renewed members. Of that, 35 are Paid-Up-For-Life members. Our goal this year is 398 members, so it looks like we are off to a good start. Let's keep our **Adjutant Pickens Jones** busy processing those renewals.

Following up on last month's column about using the new online dues payment system, I would be interested in any comments you have about using this new way to pay dues. It also provides additional ways to learn more about the American Legion. You can access it at www.mylegion.org.

Also, let me know what you think we can all do to keep our Post

vibrant and help our Post grow, or anything else on your mind. Good, bad or indifferent, doesn't matter – just email me at: emeryheuermann@charter.net.

Till next month. . .
For God and Country
Emery Heuermann
First Vice Commander

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (August 18, 2011)

Commander Kim Biggerstaff opened the meeting in the customary manner and called on the Adjutant for a silent roll call. A quorum was present. The Commander called on **Sergeant-at-Arms Bolin** to identify any guests present, however; there were none. **Finance Officer Dave Lips** gave the current financial report, summarized as follows:

~General fund----- \$14,263.60
~Allocated fund----\$22,208.19
~Total assets----- \$36,471.79
(as of 7/31/2011)

First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann reported that our paid membership stands at 189 including 35 PUFL's, 47.5% towards our goal of 398. **Chaplain Jerry Mulvihill** asked the membership to inform him of anyone who is in distress and needs our prayers. (See plea elsewhere herein.) **David Lips** reported there are two pledges unfulfilled from the Birdies-for-Charity fundraiser and that the Post's "take" would not be received until October or November.

Commander Biggerstaff reminded all that the Fall Rummage Sale is on October 22nd and that articles for sale are needed, especially "big ticket items". Since the storage facility is almost full, Post donors are requested to

hold their treasures, then transport them to the sale site on set-up day, Friday October 21, with trucking help on request. The Commander also noted that the annual picnic is October 20th at Shadowbend Park.

Under "Unfinished Business", the Commander noted the vacancy in the Second Vice Commander position and the need to fill it, and said she would soon name members of a special committee to determine whether the Post can support hosting the District 7 Convention next April.

Under "New Business", the Commander, supported by District Commander **Everett Ison**, discussed the October District 7 Convention. The Convention will include a drive to assist homeless veterans by donations of use and value. Post 305 will donate "move-in tubs", as in the past, to help veterans set up their own apartments. All members are requested to help fill tubs by bringing household items to the September meeting. The membership also approved an expenditure of \$150 to meet the expenses of the four Post reps attending the Convention and to pay for our participation in the various activities.

Finance Officer **Dave Lips** presented the 2011-2012 Post budget. The budget was approved after some line items were changed. After approval of the budget, there was some discussion of the accounting procedures used. The Commander will appoint an audit committee to conduct the annual audit of Post finances and verify the accounting methods used.

There being no further business, the Commander closed the meeting "by the numbers".



VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY REFORM

Under a newly proposed plan of a Pentagon task force (the Defense Business Board), all troops would receive yearly retirement contributions if they put in at least 20 years of service. Those contributions would be put into a mandatory "Uniformed Military Personnel Thrift Savings Plan" (TSP). Both DoD contributions and service-member contributions would be combined in the individual's TSP, which would function as a 401(k)-style account. The funds, however, would not be vested until service time reached at least three to five years and then would not be payable until retirement age. If the GI left before that three to five year mark, the time served would be rolled over into Social Security. The service member would elect annually how he/she wanted the money invested.

Joe Davis, VFW Director of Public Affairs, said; "The whole issue here with this plan is about saving money, not maintaining the force!" Retired General Bob Scales called the proposal "a bad deal".

The bad news is that there are advocates in the Administration who want to apply this "overhaul" retroactively! Sounds like a bad case of "eagle constipation"! Stay tuned; it's just a proposal so far.

TEXAS DRIVER'S LICENSE VETERAN RECOGNITION

Honorably discharged veterans will soon be able to elect to include on their driver's license a notation that they are indeed a veteran. House Bill 1514 was passed, and as soon as the Department of Public Safety can put in place the rules and related software, this option will be available.

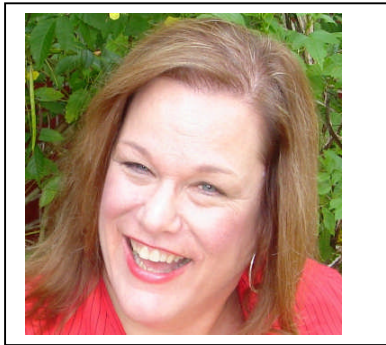
The purpose is to give veterans an official and handy proof of service to use wherever such ID is required or beneficial. The law is effective September 1, but the DPS needs time to set up the administrative procedures to effect the benefit. Vets desiring to take advantage of this code change will need to present proof of honorable discharge, probably via DD Form 214 or a discharge certificate.

EAT RIGHT, STAY HEALTHY AND LIVE LONGER!

Take a minute to think about the colors of the food you eat. Do images of red, dark green, yellow, blue, purple, green, and orange come to mind? No? Then, you may not be getting all the nutrients you need for good health. To obtain the widest range of nutrients, we need to consume a variety of food. Variety also helps add color to our daily intake. One simple way to accomplish this change is by eating more fruits and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables are full of vitamins, minerals, and fiber. Therefore, they benefit our health in many ways.

Research has revealed that a diet high in fruits and vegetables may reduce the risk of developing diabetes and certain cancers. Stroke and heart disease risk also decreases with higher fruit and

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



Ann Jones, President

Unit 305 is participating in the Jill Biden/Michelle Obama initiative to pledge hours for veterans community service. The Auxiliary has pledged 1000 hours for this initiative. We are also participating in their Honor Card Project. Both of these projects are currently being implemented within our Unit.

The Unit has also decided to donate \$100.00 to the Wounded Warrior Legacy Ride Scholarship Fund. This motorcycle ride benefits the children of wounded warriors. We are also going to be making weekly cookie visits to the Conroe VA Clinic, as well as, participating in other projects at the VA Clinic. The Auxiliary will also be making monthly visits to

Fisher House to take groceries and meals for their guests.

Anadarko Petroleum Co. has contacted the Unit again this year for poppies for their Veterans Day Celebration. They have also asked for four volunteers to distribute these poppies. The volunteers have been assigned and the poppies have been ordered.

Our membership drive is currently in full swing. The majority of our active members have renewed their membership. Our members can now renew their memberships on our website this year. Just click on Auxiliary Membership and follow the instructions. This is for renewals only.

Our newest member is **Bernice Ward**. Bernice signed up at our August meeting. Her husband, Lou, is already a member of our Post. Please join me in welcoming Bernice to Auxiliary 305. Any further questions regarding membership, please contact our membership chairman, **Dayna Salter**, now safely home from a business trip to Chad.

I am very sad to report that our member and friend, Eileen O'Grady, is battling breast cancer. As we know, this dreaded disease affects way too many women annually. Please keep Eileen in your prayers.

School has started once again, so please keep a watchful eye on our youngsters.

Ann Jones
President

THE WASP'S: WOMEN PILOTS OF WWII

In the early 1940s, the Army Air Corps faced a dilemma. Thousands of new airplanes were coming off assembly lines and needed to be delivered to military bases nationwide, yet most of America's pilots were overseas fighting the war. To deal with the situation, the War Department launched an experimental program to train women pilots to fly military aircraft. From 1942 to 1944, 1,000 women were trained to ferry aircraft, test planes, instruct male pilots, and tow targets for anti-aircraft artillery practice. Their home was Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas.

AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WHERE?</u>
Mon.	Sept. 5	Labor Day	
Sun.	Sept. 11	Patriot Day ("Nine-Eleven")	
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	
Fri.	Sept. 22 to Sept. 25	Department Executive Committee Mtg.	Omni Southpark Hotel, 4140 Governor's Row, Austin
Sat.	Oct. 15	District 7 Convention (Traveling Trophy)	Crockett Post 134, 1000 Brazos Avenue
Mon.	Oct. 17	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Oct. 20	Annual Octoberfest Picnic	Shadowbend Park Pavilion @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Oct. 21	Fall Rummage Sale Set-up Day	Robinson Road Community Center
Sat.	Oct. 22	Fall Rummage Sale	Robinson Road Community Center
Mon.	Oct. 31	Halloween	Trick or Treat!
Thur.	Nov. 10	US Marine Corps Founded (1775)	
Fri.	Nov. 11	Veterans Day	
Mon.	Nov. 14	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Nov. 17	Membership Meetings (Turkey Pot Luck)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day	Gobble, gobble!

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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