



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 “THE WOODLANDS POST” THE BUGLE



January 2012

Volume 8, Issue 1

## COMMANDER’S CORNER



**Cdr. Kimberly Biggerstaff**

Greetings fellow Legionnaires:

Another Christmas and another year has come and gone. As we enter into the New Year, I’d like to take this opportunity to **thank all my officers and the membership** for their support thus far. They’ve been working hard and are appreciated. Anytime I have a question or problem, I know I can go to past commanders, officers or the membership for assistance. I’d also like to **thank everyone in our Auxiliary Unit.** Their continued support at meetings and activities is much appreciated.

A hearty welcome to our members **Bob Bagley, Terry Green, and Peter Koch.** It was great to see you at the meeting!

The Post needs to fill a couple of officer positions; Second Vice Commander and Finance Officer. The *Post Officer’s Guide* states the Second Vice Commander has “an important job. The responsibility is to build the ‘I-like-my-post-because\_\_\_\_\_’ atmosphere that finds a lot of Legionnaires having fun while still doing the work of the Legion. The Commander will depend on the Second Vice Commander to provide the programs that spice up the meetings and attract attendance. The social calendar must always be filled several months in advance with activities that will bring out the active members, as well as those who are just card-carrying Legionnaires. The Second Vice Commander plays a dual role of fun and serious, which so typifies The American Legion.” Any interested members in good standing please contact an Executive Committee member (as listed herein on the last page).

Our long-term Finance Officer, **Dave Lips**, is stepping down after ten years of **excellent** work handling the Post’s finances. Therefore, we are looking for someone who may have some experience in this position or in accounting, but it’s not a necessity. Some computer skills and familiarity with Quicken software would also be helpful.

As stated in the *Officer’s Guide*: “The finance officer/treasurer must be a person of proven integrity and experienced in handling financial affairs. The Post is dependent on finance, just as any other organization, and will do well to accept expert advice in formulating and administering its financial policy. The finance officer/treasurer usually serves as the chair of the Finance Committee and is in charge of all receiving and disbursing of Post funds.” Any interested members please contact an Executive Committee member (as listed herein on the last page.)

We have some progress on the Post cookbook fundraiser. Most of the recipes that have been received are formatted. **Win Salter** and **Emery Heuermann** are in the process of researching printing and binding options. Thanks to Auxiliary members **Gene Wilson** and **Carrie Campbell** for their help in doing the word-processing and editing/proofing the book thus far. It will have classic military recipes like SOS and Navy Bean Soup, along with real GI quotes about finding, foraging, cooking, eating and commenting on food past warfighters received.

Please remember that another of our fundraisers is the Coupon/Entertainment Book. We have a lot of money invested in this, and

we need to sell them. They are an excellent bargain and good through November 30, 2012. Adjutant **Pickens Jones** is the point of contact on this.

I am looking forward to tasting some great chili at our Annual Chili Cook-off, which follows the coming Membership Meetings on January 19. This month will also encompass the District Oratorical Contest on January 8, at Post 618, Willis at 1:00 PM. Consult: [www.legion.org/oratorical/about](http://www.legion.org/oratorical/about) Note also that the Department Mid-Winter Convention takes place January 19-22

For God and Country,  
*Kimberly Biggerstaff*

### FIRST VICE COMMANDER REPORTS

Wow. . . the 2011 year just seemed to fly by! Our 2011 membership year officially ended on December 31<sup>st</sup>. All members not renewed for 2012 are in arrears as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, so if you haven't sent in your 2012 dues renewal, please do so soon. As of December 15, 2011, our 2012 membership is at 73.2 % of our 398 member goal so keep those renewals coming in! We still have away to go. If you know of someone who would like to join, they can call me at 281-362-8431 or refer them to the Post Website for the qualifications and a membership application. Membership dues are only \$31.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to American Legion Post 305 and mailed to P. O. Box 9334, The Woodlands, TX 77387. Our Adjutant, **Pickens Jones**, will take it from there

A hearty welcome to our two newest members, **Terry Green** and **Bob Bagley**.

For Post 305 activity information, program details, maps to the meeting location, calendar dates and a lot more, visit the Post 305 Website at [www.alpost305.org](http://www.alpost305.org). We also have a Facebook Group page. Just go to: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), do a search for "American Legion Post 305 TX", and you're there. Till next month. . . For God and Country

**Emery Heuermann**  
First Vice Commander

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (December 15, 2011)

Commander **Biggerstaff** opened the meeting in the prescribed manner. The Commander asked the Sergeant-at-Arms **Jim Bolin** to introduce the visitors, who included: new member **Bob Bagley** (Air Force/Security 1971-1997, now with Montgomery Hospital); a member at his second meeting, who joined at the picnic, **Terry Green** (retired Army Command. Sergeant. Major – 2009; now working with the telephone company); and long-time member, who came out for the meeting, **Peter Koch** (retired Navy – 1974), now head of a foundation to Teach The Constitution).

First Vice Commander **Emery Heuermann** reported that the Post has 291 paid-up members toward of a goal of 398 members. He also noted that the last Bugle went out to 490 Post members and friends. He also said that the Post Website was up and running at [alpost305.org](http://alpost305.org).

Chaplain **Jerry Mulvihill** reported that we have nine of the Bibles which we give out at funerals. He also reinforced his remarks made a couple of meetings ago when he asked to be notified when there were any Comrades who were sick or injured. We have appropriate cards on hand.

Historian **Win Salter** noted that the history book for this year was coming along, but he had been paying more attention lately to advancing the Cookbook Project, which will need to be funded in the next budget so the book can be published. The Project could use some more recipes.

Under "Old Business", the Commander reminded everyone that next meeting includes the Annual Chili Cook-off. All Post members are invited to submit their chili version to be judged by members of the Auxiliary.

Under "New Business", those present discussed the aborted visit to a casino. More information is needed, but it appears that it will be rescheduled in either March or April on a first Tuesday.

Under "For the Good of the Legion" it was noted that there are new Coupon/Entertainment Books for sale at \$49.95 each. This is a big fund raiser for the Post and a bargain for members and friends. The Post needs your support to buy these books or help sell them. If they seem expensive, remember they are filled with coupons worth many times the value of the book. There is certainly something for everyone in the book. Then the Post voted to donate \$100.00 to Houston's USO.

The meeting was closed in the prescribed ritual.

## SPEAKING OF CHILI

When the American West was undergoing settlement, a durable trail food was devised which consisted of dried beef, suet, dried chili peppers and salt. These were pounded into bricks and allowed to dry. On the trail, frontiersmen would boil a brick in water, which resulted in a sort of hearty stew. This staple became embellished as towns developed and saloons and cafes offered variations on the original concoction, using near fresh beef, fresh or dried peppers and, in some cases, beans. During the 1880's, brightly-garbed Mexican women, known as "chili queens", began to operate from open-air stands, selling their chili by the bowl to passersby. They were a fixture around San Antonio's Military Plaza and other gathering places. The aroma was a potent sales pitch!

The 1893 Columbia Exposition in Chicago included a "San Antonio Chili Stand", which brought the dish to other parts of the country. San Antonio, with the Alamo, was a significant tourist destination and helped Texas-style chili con carne spread throughout the South and West. As early as 1904, "chili parlors" were opening outside of Texas. After working at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, one Charles Taylor opened a chili parlor in Carlinville, Illinois, serving "Mexican Chili". In the 1920's and 1930's chains of diner-style chili parlors appeared throughout the Mid-west. Regional variations evolved. like that called "Cincinnati Style". In 1977, the State of Texas designated chili con carne the official dish of Texas.

In the 1885, rancher Lyman Davis of Corsicana, in partnership with

an experienced chuck-wagon cook, began producing a heavily-spiced chili, based on lean chunks beef and rendered beef suet, which he sold by the pot to local cafes. In 1921, Davis began canning his chili, naming it for his pet wolf. The earliest canned chili was produced in 1908 by Willie Gebhardt of New Braunfels, then later, San Antonio.

There is much debate as to whether beans and/or tomatoes "belong" in chili. And, it seems that every chili cook has his or her closely-held "secret recipe". Other variations include the addition of corn, tomatillos, cocoa, coffee, cola, beer, molasses, you name it!

In any case, any Post or Auxiliary member, who wants to show off his or her "secret recipe" for chili, should enter the Annual Chili Cook-off, a feature following the January Membership Meetings.



**VETERAN'S ADVOCATE**

**VETERANS ADVOCATE**

### **HOMELESS VET INITIATIVE**

In an effort to keep veterans from turning to the streets, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced on December 5<sup>th</sup> that it will offer \$100 million in grants to local agencies that help returning troops in need. The VA estimates that 107,000 veterans are without a place to stay on any given night and has committed to eliminating the mounting problem by 2015. The VA's most recent

program will enable community agencies to apply for grants from the \$100 million fund, so that they can intervene before former servicemen and servicewomen are forced to give up their homes. "The problems that lead to homelessness begin long before veterans and their families are on the streets," Secretary of Veterans Affairs **Eric K. Shinseki** said in a statement. "By putting more resources into prevention services for people at risk of becoming homeless, we will continue to help veterans and their families get back on their feet and turn their lives around." The program aims to help more than 35,000 veterans and families. Offering veterans training, education and counseling -- among other services -- is critical before returning troops resort to living in cardboard boxes. Homeless veterans are more likely to develop life-threatening diseases -- and remain on the streets longer -- than non-veteran homeless people, according to a study conducted by the 100,000 Homeless Campaign released in November. "Those who have served this nation as veterans should never find themselves on the streets, living without care and without hope." Shinseki said.

[Source: Huff Post Impact Article, December 7, 2011]

### **VETERANS JOB UPDATE**

The Department of Labor has announced a new partnership with Microsoft Corporation to provide veterans with vouchers for no-cost training and certifications that can lead to important industry-recognized credentials. The voucher program will serve veterans in five communities with the highest number of returning post-9/11 era veterans: Seattle, WA; San Diego, CA; Houston, TX; Northern Virginia; and Jack-

sonville, FL. Additional information about this and other initiatives, including specific locations where the vouchers will be distributed, is available at the Department of Labor's VETS Website at: <http://www.dol.gov/vets>. An audio file of a press call announcing this initiative is available to download at: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/media/audio/20111109-announcement-call.mp3>. For more information about DOL employment and training programs for veterans, contact the VETS office nearest you, listed in the phone book in the United States Government under the Labor Department or visit their home site at: <http://www.dol.gov/vets/aboutvets/contacts/main.htm>.

A similar opportunity is available through the Syracuse University's School of Information Studies. They are hosting a non-credit online curriculum free of cost to veterans who have served on active duty post 9/11/01, which focuses on preparation for transition to corporate careers in information technology (IT) or operations. This program is available to both employed and unemployed post-9/11 veterans with a minimum of a high school diploma and is comprised of two certificate courses: VET 1: Career Skills for Global Enterprises and VET 2: Applied Technology Education.

**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](http://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

**EVENT BULLETIN BOARD  
WHAT ~ WHEN ~ WHERE**



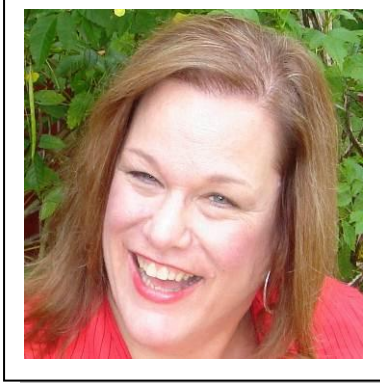
**January 8, 2012: Oratorical Contest:** High school students vie for an \$18,000 scholarship by presenting a prepared, five-minute oration on their choice of a section of the US Constitution. Contestants begin at their classrooms where they are selected by their teacher, then advance through District, Division, state and finally National levels. The Post which promotes the District winner donates a \$100 scholarship, and the District awards the winner a \$250 scholarship. The Contest chairperson for Post 305 is Lacey Homan. We have two entrants from two high schools.

**January 18, 2012: Department Mid-Winter Meetings:** These annual series of meetings provide to attendees the opportunity to be updated on various committee matters and on the Department chain-of-command issues. The five days sessions consist of committee meetings over three days and two days of formal gatherings similar to a membership meeting, where business of the Department is conducted. Post 305 delegates will be Comrades Biggerstaff, Ison and Bannon.

**January 19, 2012: Post/Auxiliary Annual Chili Cook-Off Contest:** This culinary event of the year is the "pot-luck" part of the January Membership Meetings. It attracts members to produce and share their special version of the comfort-food staple: chili-con-carne. Selected unbiased judges will sample the offerings and judge the winner and the runner-up. So dust off that secret recipe and enter the contest!

**April 13-14, 2012: Post Rummage Sale:** April seems like a long way off right now, but it will be here before you know it. Now is the time to canvass your friends and neighbors to see if they have any unwanted items which might become someone else's treasure. We have storage facility space available. Contact an Executive Committee Members for further information.

# AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



**Ann Jones, President**

I am hoping the New Year will bring a healthy and prosperous year to our Auxiliary and their family members. We must remember to pray for our men and women who continue to fight the war on terrorism in Afghanistan.

Auxiliary Unit 305 received a Certificate of Appreciation from American Legion Post 533 in Bastrop. It was "in recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding service." Our Auxiliary came together and gathered many items and monetary donations to the homeless families in Bastrop during the devastating fires in the fall of 2011. The entire Unit gave unselfishly during this disaster. Unit 305 also gave a \$150.00 gift card to a Unit member's family

who has recently suffered a major family tragedy. This card was to help buy toys for their child this Christmas.

The Auxiliary has also received many letters from the students of a border school in Brownsville, thanking us for the poppies that the Unit sent to them. The poppies were given to school employees and family members who were veterans. A program on poppy history was also presented to the students. Unit member **Mary Kay Sanchez** is the principal of the elementary school.

Unit 305 member **Joan Sparks** presented a patriotic book to Schindewolf Middle School for their outstanding patriotism on Veteran's Day. The Unit also proudly received a donation to our VA&R program from Nabors Drilling. Unit member **Ursula McConnell's** husband, **Bruce**, is an employee of Nabors Drilling.

The Unit's raffle ticket sale – "Bikes For Little Heroes" – was sold out during the pot-luck period at the December meeting. That fundraiser provides custom made bicycles to the children of wounded veterans. Thanks are owed to **Jenny Le** who proposed this charitable act and to **Joan**

**Sparks** who donated the patriotic bear duo which was the prize raffled.

And, remember our next meeting will be followed by the Annual Chili Cook-off. Auxiliary members are welcome to bring their best chili to be judged by Post members and be sampled by all. Unit members will be judging the entries of Post members

Please be safe and cautious in this new year. Our member, **Joan Charest**, has taken a fall and broken her wrist. **Jackie Ulmer** is mending from her hip fracture, and **Eileen O'Grady** is in the midst of her chemotherapy treatments. We all pray for their healthy healing.



**Ann Jones  
President**

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WHERE?</u>
Sun.	Jan. 8	District 7 Oratorical Contest	Post 618, Willis at 1:00 PM
Mon.	Jan. 16	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Mon.	Jan. 16 to Fri. Jan. 20	Department Mid-Winter Meetings	Omni Austin Southpark Hotel, Austin
Thur.	Jan. 19	Membership Meetings (Chili Night)	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Thur.	Feb. 2	Groundhog Day (Another chili day?)	Punxsutawney, PA
Mon.	Feb. 13	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 14	Valentines Day	With Sweetie
Thur.	Feb. 16	Membership Mtgs. (Four Chaplains)	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Mon.	Feb. 20	Presidents Day	Holiday
Sun.	Mar. 11	Daylight Saving Time Begins	Spring Forward (Lose 1 Hour of Sleep!)
Mon.	Mar. 12	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Thur.	Mar. 15	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Fri.	April 13	Post Rummage Sale Set-Up Day	Robinson Rd. Community Ctr. @8:00 AM
Sat.	April 14	Post Rummage Sale	Robinson Rd. Community Ctr. @8:00 AM

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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