



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305
 “THE WOODLANDS POST”
 THE BUGLE



February 2012 Volume 8, Issue 2

COMMANDER’S CORNER



Cdr. Kimberly Biggerstaff

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

The Color Guard once again represented the Post well by presenting the colors for a wounded soldier. **Chris Sanford** and his wife were presented the keys to their new home in The Woodlands. The Color Guard led a parade from Rob Fleming Aquatic Center to the Sanford’s new home, where the Colors were then presented. Thanks to **Jim Bolin, Pickens Jones** and **George Bannon**.

Participating in these types of activities serve multiple purposes. The Color Guard represents the Post, and people are able to see that we are “out there” serving the community. It’s a great public relations tool that doesn’t really cost us anything. It can also be a

chance to recruit new members. Whether or not we sign someone up on the spot or not, we can hand out our calendars and/or a business card. Again, they know we are here if they need us now or later.

I went to the Mid-Winter Convention in Austin and was presented the plaque for our Post Narrative. For those who may not know, **Win Salter’s** Post Narrative won 3rd Place at National. Way to go Win!

I was surprised to learn that the Boy Scout representative reported he had not received any applications for the Eagle Scout of the Year Award. The applications have to be at Department by March 1, 2012.

Any nominee must:

- Be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, chartered to an American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary Unit or Sons of The American Legion Squadron.

OR

- Be a registered, active member of a chartered Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or Auxiliary member.

AND

- Received the Eagle Scout Award.
- Be an active member of his religious institution and must have received the appropriate Boy Scout religious emblem.
- Have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, scouting, and community.
- Have reached his 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

Note: ***Eagle Scouts still in high school who reached their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified.***

If we have any members who have a son or grandson who qualifies, let us know if you’re interested. For more information see the following web site: <http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/eaglescoutnomform.pdf>

I’m looking forward to the Annual Chili Cook-off this month and the Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony. The next meeting is February 16 at the Community Center at 7:00 pm.

For God and Country,
Kimberly Biggerstaff

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
(January 19, 2012)

Commander Biggerstaff opened the meeting in the prescribed manner. The Commander asked the Sergeant-at-Arms about

visitors, but there were none. The Commander then gave the Treasurer's report as \$17,509.71 in the General Fund, \$5,210.27 in the Money Market Fund and \$17,000.00 as a CD for a total of cash assets \$39,719.38.

First Vice Commander **Emery Heuermann** reported that the Post has 304 paid-up members toward of a goal of 398 members, for a goal reach of 74%.

Service Officer **Dayton Denton** reported that Post member **Frank Canfield**, now living in Corsicana, TX, is ill with cancer but doing well under the circumstances.

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

Mickey Fussel reported that the Casino trip would be Tuesday, April 3rd. He advised us to make reservations with 1st Class Tours, 281-443-1200, seven days prior to the date of the trip as that date is a popular day for it is Senior Day. The cost of the bus is \$15 and lunch will be \$5.50. What you win or lose is your business, but \$100 should provide a lot of fun. The bus leaves at 8 AM. and returns by 10 PM, and you are guaranteed five hours at the casino. The bus leaves from the 1st Class Tours office which is on FM1960, two blocks east of I-45.

Under "New Business", the Commander reported that a dishwasher donated by **Gene Watz** sold for \$35 which would be credited to the Rummage Sale. **Jim Bolin** reported that it was Birdies for Charity time again.

This is a major fund raiser for the Post and Auxiliary. All money collected will be returned to the Post. To join the fund, you must choose the correct number of birdies to be made during the Shell Houston Open Golf Tournament. Each guess will cost \$20 or a promise to pay at least One Cent per birdie. A copy of the sheet to turn in, along with directions will be sent to you separately.

The Commander noted that the Post had received \$96 from the recent Poppy Drive.

Under "For the Good of the Legion". Commander Biggerstaff reminded all that the Chili Cook-off will be next month and to let her know if you planned to enter to insure that we have sufficient entries to field a team for the Auxiliary to judge. She also asked for us to identify items for the Rummage Sale which is on April 13th and 14th, and to bring them to the storage facility or call a Post officer for pick-up.

The meeting was closed in the prescribed ritual.



VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

VA EMERGENCY CARE UPDATE

The VA announced on 12 JAN a change in regulations regarding payments for emergency care provided to eligible veterans in non-VA facilities. "This provision

helps ensure eligible veterans continue to get the emergency care they need when VA facilities are not available", said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. The new regulation extends VA's authority to pay for emergency care provided to eligible veterans at non-VA facilities until the veterans can be safely transferred to a VA medical facility. More than 100,000 veterans could be affected by the new rules, at a cost of about \$44 million annually. VA operates 121 emergency departments across the country, which provide resuscitative therapy and stabilization in life-threatening situations. They operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The VA also has 46 urgent care units, which provide care for patients without scheduled appointments who need immediate medical or psychiatric attention. For more information about emergency care in non-VA facilities refer to <http://www.nonvacare.va.gov>. [Source: VA Press Release 12 Jan 2012]

ADDITIONAL MEDICAL INFORMATION

You will find at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tutorial.html> interactive health tutorials from the Patient Education Institute. There you can learn about the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment for a variety of diseases and conditions. Also about surgeries, prevention and wellness. Each tutorial includes animated graphics, audio and easy-to-read language. There is a search engine for obtaining information on conditions not listed in the main menu . [Source: NCPOA Don Haribine, message 7 Jan 2011]

PHARMACY COPAY UPDATE

On January 1, 2012 the Walgreens drugstore chain left the TRICARE Pharmacy Network. For the last several months, it has been written reported about the contractual impasse that Walgreens and Express Scripts, Inc (ESI) had reached. ESI is the pharmacy benefit manager that has the TRICARE retail pharmacy contract. If you have been using Walgreens as your drug store you should now consider transferring your prescriptions (if you have not done so all ready.) You could, of course, continue to use Walgreens. but they will then be a **non-network pharmacy**. Your co-pays will be much higher. Additionally, you would be required to pay the full amount of the prescription up from and then submit a claim for reimbursement.

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

**AN INCIDENT WELL
REMEMBERED**

On February 3, 1943, the USAT Dorchester, a small troopship, was one of three ships in convoy enroute to a US airbase at Narsarsauk, Greenland. Three Coast Guard Cutters were the convoy's escorts. At about 1:00 AM, a torpedo fired by German U-

boat U-223 struck the Dorchester on its starboard side near the engine room and instantly killed 100 crewmen and troops. The ship which carried 902 souls sank in less than 27 minutes, with a total loss of 672 lives. Two of the escorting cutters picked up 230 survivors.

This WWII incident would have remained just that except for the heroism of four Army lieutenants, all chaplains of differing religious affiliations. The four chaplains helped their fellow servicemen to abandon ship, guiding them to lifeboats and rafts, handing out life jackets and lastly donating their own jackets to those without. They were visible to survivors, joined together and staying with the doomed ship.

~ Survivor **John Ladd** watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and donated their own jackets to a few without.

~ Survivor **Pvt. William B. Bednar** recalled, "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying. I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going!"

~ Survivor **Grady Clark** said, "As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lighted everything. The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the four chaplains were up there praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their life jackets."

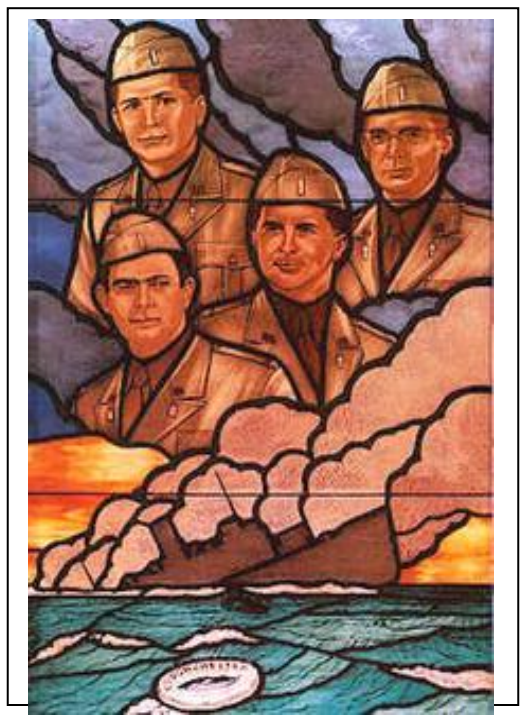
~ Survivor **Petty Officer John J. Mahoney** tried to re-enter his cabin, but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold artic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves. "Never mind", Goode responded, "I have

two pairs." The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized that Rabbi Goode was not conveniently carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the rabbi had decided not to leave the Dorchester.

- These brave men of God were:
 ~ **George L. Fox** – Methodist Reverend of Lewistown, Pennsylvania; age 43.
 ~ **Alexander D. Goode** – Rabbi of Brooklyn, New York; age 32.
 ~ **Clark V. Poling** – Reformed Church Reverend of Columbus, Ohio; age 33.
 ~ **John P. Washington** – Roman Catholic Priest of Newark, New Jersey; age 35.

In July 1960, "The Four Chaplains Medal" was established by act of Congress and presented to the next of kin by the Secretary of the Army on January 18, 1961. All four chaplains had been awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously in December 1944. Many memorials to the Four Chaplains exist throughout the US. Annually, American Legion Posts remember Four Chaplains' Day and conduct the Four Chaplains' Memorial service.





EVENT BULLETIN BOARD WHAT ~ WHEN ~ WHERE

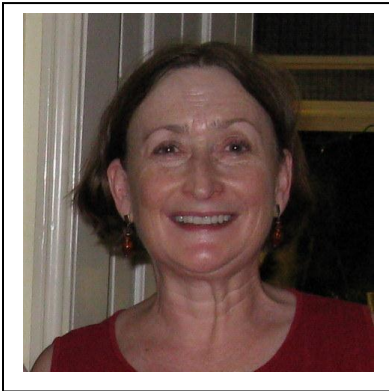
January 19 through March 15, 2012: Annual Birdies for

Charity Fund Drive: This fund drive asks members to sell chances on a 2012 Toyota Camry at \$20 each. All the money collected from the sale of chances is returned to the Post. Your estimate can be turned in at a meeting or by telephoning Jim Bolin at (281) 251-2352. The persons getting a chance to vie for the Camry are the folks that guess the correct number of birdies that will be made by the participants of the Shell Houston Open. That is the number, or numbers, you will turn in to Jim Bolin

February 16, 2012: Post/Auxiliary Annual Chili Cook-Off Contest: This culinary event of the year is the “pot-luck” part of this year’s February 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 3, 2012: Casino Trip: Members of the Post and Auxiliary will get to spend time with their comrades on a trip to a casino in Louisiana. The assembly point is the offices of 1st Class Tours located East of I-45 on FM 1960. When you get off of I-45, stay to the right and the offices are about 1½ blocks up on your right. Assembly time is 8 AM. Members will call and make their own reservation exactly 7 days before April 3 to insure a seat on the bus. Return time will be around 10 PM.

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 Member for further information.



Dayna Salter, President

As some of you may know, **Ann Jones** has decided to resign her position as President of ALA Unit 305 effective January 19, 2012. I would like to thank Ann for her excellent service to the Auxiliary and support of the Post. Her tenure as President from July 2010 through January 2012 has included some wonderful accomplishments, honors and awards for our Unit.

The Crafts Show in 2010 was a tremendous success and brought in much needed funds to our general account. The Ride for Veterans in 2011 was also a huge success. Ann was recognized by the ALA Department of Texas with nine certificates of merit and appreciation, including two for her Leadership and one for Community Service. Ann has also

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS

her Leadership and one for Community Service. Ann has also been instrumental in applying rigor and discipline to the workings of the Unit.

As we move on in 2012, there is much work to be done. The Executive Committee met on January 25th to fill the existing vacancies on the Board including Vice President, which was vacated after I succeeded Ann. The new officers are listed below in the contact box. They will serve out terms until new officers are elected in midyear.

We are considering ideas for fund-raising projects to continue to support our programs for veterans and their families; Girls State; and other education initiatives.

Please plan on attending the next meeting on February 16, 2012 at the South County Community Center where we will discuss and vote on some options for fund raising, as well a few other items of pressing business.

The February meeting will also include the postponed Chili Cook-Off. Auxiliary members are encouraged to bring their best

chili efforts to be judged by Post members. We will judge entries from the Post.

And, in February, we will also participate in the Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony, which commemorates the heroic efforts of four Army chaplains at the sinking of a troopship in February, 1943.

An important reminder for those with college bound children or grandchildren, March 1, 2012 is the submission deadline for all Auxiliary Scholarship applications to be sent to me including:

- Department of Texas – must be a Texas resident
- National President's
- Non Traditional Student for those returning to school
- Spirit of Youth
- Samsung for Girls/ Boys State participants

We don't have much time so if you think you have a candidate, please let me know ASAP. The rules and form, as well as links to the national scholarships may be found at

<http://alateexas.org/scholarship/education.html>

I look forward to seeing everyone on February 16th and have a Happy Valentine's Day!

Dayna Salter

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HISTORIAN: Stephanie Marshall; Tel: (832) 637-2909; E-mail: edaymemories@hotmail.com

CHAPLAIN: Mary Lee Mulvihill; Tel: (281) 353-5574; E-mail: mulvihill1954@yahoo.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Sue Ellen Bannon; Tel: (281) 298-1588; E-mail: sebannon@comcast.net

SGT-AT-ARMS: Christina O'Grady; E-mail: yankeefan0216@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Jackie Ulmer; Tel: (281) 363-3543; E-mail: sydney2@aol.com

Rosalie Fryer; Tel: (936) 520-8895; E-mail: rcfryer@charter.net

Ursula McConnell; Tel: (713) 822-6139; E-mail: ursjmccconnell@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WHERE?</u>
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
Mon.	April 16	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Thur.	April 19	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Mon.	May 14	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Thur.	May 17	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Sat.	May 19	Armed Forces Day	
Mon.	May 28	Memorial Day (Observed)	National Cemetery – Houston
Wed.	May 30	Memorial Day (Original)	

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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 2nd VICE CMDR: (vacant)
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 FINANCE OFFICER: (vacant)
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