



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 "THE WOODLANDS POST" THE BUGLE



April 2012 Volume 8, Issue 4

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Cdr. Kimberly Biggerstaff

Greetings fellow Legionnaires. Our year is winding down, so there is a lot to do. Elections for officers will take place in May. In June, we will have our Installation of Officers along with some awards presentations. One of these is the Legionnaire-of-the-Year award. Listed below are the criteria to be considered.

"Primary consideration should be given to the contributions that an individual has made, during the past calendar year, to the various activities of the Post, as well as to furthering the ideals of all American Legion programs. In addition, consideration should be given to their cumulative performance over the years. The following factors, not necessarily in order of priority, should be among those taken into consideration:

- ~ attendance at meetings.
- ~ active participation at meetings.
- ~ participation in rummage sales and/or set-up.
- ~ supporting Birdies For Charity
- ~ attendance at conventions.
- ~ contributions to the newsletter.
- ~ recruiting activities.
- ~ membership renewal efforts.
- ~ welcoming new members.
- ~ coordination/communications with members between meetings. .
- ~ communications and involvement with other Posts or headquarters.
- ~ working closely with Auxiliary.
- ~ contributing to fellowship and camaraderie.
- ~ active participation on committees or projects.
- ~ volunteering to take the initiative in activities.
- ~ assuming the responsibility of elective office.
- ~ attending/participating in outside activities or ceremonies.
- ~ assisting in Poppy distribution.
- ~ assisting in the Adopt-A-Path program.
- ~ visiting the V.A.M.C..
- ~ assisting with and/or participating in July 4th parade.
- ~ knowledge about American Legion programs and policies.
- ~ helping the Post grow and move forward."

Nominations should be made to the Executive Committee in writing, to allow for a meaningful review and selection, to include sufficient details to support the justification of the award.

Fundraisers are very important to our organization. This is how we pay for scholarships, participate in Boys State, and help our veterans, among other things. We still need to sell about 25 of the coupon books. Our rummage sale is coming up on April 13-14. Please consider donating or coming out to help. We are still collecting plain white socks for the VA Hospitals in Houston, Waco, and San Antonio. They have requested the socks for those who wear prosthetics. It's **very important** that the socks be plain white (no dye of any color, anywhere on it). This is because the dye burns the skin. Also, the socks should be tube type or crew length. These socks may be hard to find. If you would like to donate other types of socks, we will take them and donate them to the homeless veterans. Please contact an officer before April 14.

The next meeting is April 19 at the Community Center at 7:00 pm.

For God and Country,
Kimberly Biggerstaff

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (March 15, 2012)

Commander Biggerstaff opened the meeting in the prescribed manner. The Commander asked the Sergeant-at-Arms about visitors. The Sergeant-at Arms then introduced Army Veteran **Jessie Hernandez**, who is interested in transferring to the Post and **C. J. Denton**, son of Dayton Denton, who was visiting. The Commander welcomed Mr. Hernandez and C. J. Denton. The Commander then gave the Treasurer's report as \$17,297.59 in the General Fund, and \$22,350.83 in the Allocated Fund for a total assets of \$39,648.42.

First Vice Commander **Emery Heuermann** reported that the Post has 319 paid-up members, or 80% of a goal of 398 members. There are only three months left to get the remaining 79 members. The First Vice Commander is working on calling members who have not renewed.

Chaplain, **Jerry Mulvihill**, reported that **Harlen Thornhill** has medical problems along with two of our comrades from last month who are still undergoing treatment, **Dutch Dettinger** and **Win Salter**.. He passed around a card to send to Harlen and the membership signed the card. Our thoughts and prayers go with our comrades.

Under "Old Business", **Jim Bolin** reported that Birdies for Charity has only had \$400 donated so far. Deadline for submitting a donation and guess was March 20, 2012. At the time of the deadline, the Post had \$1,070 plus .03 cents per birdie while the Aux. had \$900 donated. **Mickey Fussell** reported that the casino trip would be on Tuesday, April 3rd. He advised us

to make reservations by March 27th -- seven days before the date of the trip, as that date is a popular day for it is Senior Day. Mickey also noted that more effort needs to be made this year on getting veterans to ride our float during the 4th of July parade.

Jim Bolin reported that the Audit of the Post finances had been completed by **George Bannon** and himself. No major discrepancies were noted. Some changes in procedures were recommended. As a result of the audit, **Jim Bolin** recommended that the security bond be increased to \$20,000. The motion was tabled as the discussion moved to the difference in cost between a \$20,000 bond and a higher figure. That information was not available.

Under "New Business", **Emery Heuerman** announced that he was donating sufficient money in honor of his brother, Donald, to send one boy to Boy's State. The membership also voted \$125 to buy five gross of American flags for distribution during the 4th of July parade and to donate \$100 to the American Legion National Emergency Fund.

Under "For the Good of the Legion". Commander Biggerstaff said that the winner of the District Challenge for the up-coming District Convention will be the Post that brings the most white tube socks for the VA Hospital's amputee ward.

The meeting was closed in the prescribed ritual.



VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

HEALTH CARE ALERT!

Buried deep in Section 3403 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) is a powerful board of unelected bureaucrats, the "Independent Payment Advisory Board" (IPAB) whose sole purpose is to save money by restricting access to Medicare where spending is "too high." Few Americans are aware that this rationing board exists. It embodies what Americans fear most about the law – unaccountable Washington bureaucrats meeting in secret making decisions that should be between patients and their doctors. A review of the IPAB powers makes it clear that Americans should be most concerned. Some of these powers include:

~ Rationing health care. IPAB is required to achieve specified savings in years where Medicare spending is deemed "too high". The Board is also specifically tasked with cutting provider rates even further than the current proposed annual cuts which will reduce the number of providers willing to participate in Medicare and subsequently make it harder for seniors to obtain care.

~ Medicare Trust Fund foots the bill for the IPAB. This means that IPAB's member annual salaries (\$165,300 for members and \$179,700 for IPAB's chairperson in 2012) will be paid directly out of the trust funds used to pay



Medicare beneficiaries' health care claims. IPAB staff will also be paid out of the Medicare trust funds (up to \$145,700 per employee in 2012). So will all travel expenses and stipends.

~ Ability to operate in secret. There is no requirement in the 2,200+ page health care law that requires IPAB to hold public meetings or hearings, consider public input on its proposals, or make its deliberations open to the public.

~ The authority to accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property. This provides a not so subtle invitation for lobbyists to lavish the unelected and unaccountable IPAB members with cash, meals, cars, vacations, or even houses.

A more detailed discussion of the IPAB can be found at:

<http://tinyurl.com/6o4y5ll> which is an abbreviated link to the House Ways and Means Committee discussion of the IPAB. Remove the apparent political bias and you have substance. The good news is that H.R.452, "Medicare Decisions Accountability Act of 2011", is scheduled for a House floor vote during the week of March 19-23. H.R.452 would repeal sections of the PPACA (aka ObamaCare) and would restore provisions of law amended by such sections related to the establishment of the IPAB. H.B.452 currently has 234 cosponsors. Readers are urged to send an a message to their Representative to vote for passage of this legislation when it comes to the floor for a vote. [Source: USDR Action Alert 8 Mar 2012 ++]

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

EVENT BULLETIN BOARD WHAT ~ WHEN ~ WHERE

April 13-14, 2012: Post Rummage Sale: 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.

April 14, 2012: District Convention: Beginning at 9.00 AM, the Officers of the Post and Auxiliary, and others having an interest, will attend this meeting in Livingston. The meeting follows the format of a Membership Meeting and attends to the District's business. The District also conducts a contest called a Challenge. This meeting's Challenge is to bring as many white tube socks as possible for veterans' use.

May 18-20, 2012: 2nd Division Convention: Delegates selected from the Post of the 2nd Division meet in Beaumont to elect a new Division Commander for the year 2012-2013. The Convention is the only formal, independent meeting that the Division has during the year. The Division Commanders do participate in the various Department meetings such as Mid-Winter and Fall and Spring DEC's.

May 17, 2012: Post Elections: At the membership meeting on this date, the Post will elect its Officers for the year 2012-2013. All paid up members may vote in this election or run for an office. All Officers are elected from Commander on down. Contact the Chair of the Nomination Committee, Jim Bolin, to get your name on the ballot. Jim's phone number is 281-251-2352.

2012: Memorial Day: There will be many opportunities to pay our respects to our departed comrades on Memorial Day. The Post attends the ceremony at Houston's National Cemetery. At this ceremony, our Post Color Guard presents the Post Colors while the Auxiliary dedicates a wreath in the Parade of Wreaths.



GENERAL B. O. DAVIS & ME

Before the US joined the stalemated Western Front in WWI, American pilots volunteered to fly and fight for France as a unit called the “Franco-American Lafayette Escadrille”. Among those Americans was **Eugene Bullard**. Once the US entered the fray, members of the Escadrille were given the opportunity to join the Army Air Service. Bullard applied, but was rejected by policy. He then returned to infantry duty with the French. You see, Eugene Ballard was black, and no blacks were permitted to join the US Army Air Corps until 1941.

Fast-forward thirty years. The USS Palau (CVE-122) and two DE's are headed south in the Atlantic on a mission to participate in Liberia's celebration of its founding by American freemen. Liberia, on the West Coast of Africa, was founded in 1847, a concept of the Monroe Administration. The carrier was transporting four officials to the capital, Monrovia – two State Department officials (Messrs: DeLarue and Bostwick) and two military representatives, BGen. Benjamin O. Davis, USA, and his son, Col. B. O. Davis, Jr., USAF. The Palau's Air Division was comprised of Marine Fighter Squadron VMF-461. Enroute to Monrovia via Recife, Brazil, the ships crossed the Equator, and



USS Palau, CVE-122

all personnel, who had not had the privilege before, became “Shellbacks” and welcomed into the realm of King Neptune and his court. All four distinguished supercargo, and many Navy and Marine personnel, endured the trials and hazing of “crossing the line”. Thus, Col. B. O. Davis, Jr. became a Shellback.

The younger Davis was a West Point graduate, only the fourth African-American to do so. The Academy experience was very trying on him due to his race, but he persevered, graduating in 1936. He was posted to the Army's Infantry School, then, assigned to teach military tactics at Tuskegee Institute. When the new program became available, he was an early volunteer for the Tuskegee Airmen and earned his wings in 1942. Captain Davis soon was flying combat in North Africa, and was promoted to commander of the all-black 99th Fighter Squadron. There was lingering War Department opposition to the continued training of black air units and Air Corps supporters had to fight to maintain the program. That was settled when the 99th downed 12 German fighters on two successive days over the Anzio beachhead. Over its period of action, the Squadron flew P-39's, P-40's, P-47's, and lastly P-51's.



Davis went on to command the 332 Fighter Group, comprised of four squadrons, where he flew 60 missions and was awarded the

Silver Star. As the Group was transitioning to the P-51D Mustang, the unit adopted red-painted tails and became known as the “Red Tails”. Its primary missions became escorting heavy bombers flying missions into Germany and other southern Europe axis countries. Its record in the protection of bomber formations was superb – 200 air combat missions over Europe with very few losses.

Davis retired as a three-star General in 1970, and was soon directing the Federal Sky Marshal Program. In 1998, President Clinton awarded Davis his fourth star. He died at age 89 on the 4th of July and is buried at Arlington Memorial Cemetery.

Post-script: In the mid-70's, I was in Washington for a company conference at a hotel near Union Station. As it ended, I left to catch an early evening flight home. As I walked out of the hotel to find a cab, I found it was raining steadily, with no cabs waiting or in sight – a common DC experience. I also noted a tall, distinguished man in a trench coat, also sheltering under the hotel's awning. With a “double-take”, I recognized General Davis and asked if he was headed for the airport too. He was and we agreed to share a cab. One soon appeared, unloaded and we got in. Enroute, I said to the General that we had one thing in common. I reminded him how we both became Shellbacks in 1947, telling him I was a member of VMF-461 aboard the USS Palau. He well remembered that unique experience and his mission to Liberia.

W. O. Salter
Post Historian

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



Dayna Salter, President

As April begins, we are well on our way to raising funds and carrying out our mission to help Veterans, Active Military Service personnel and their families. Our first fundraiser of the year "Birdies for Charity" was a big success. **Rosalie Fryer** reported that the Unit alone achieved about \$900 in donations.

Our next event will be on April 14th when we help the Post with the Rummage Sale and sell our own wares at an Auxiliary table. We will be selling the black t-shirts from last year's Ride for Veterans, as well as individual baked goods and waters. Hopefully, we can acquire a few new ALA members as well. April 14th is also the date

of the District 7 Spring Convention in Huntsville. Due to the conflict with the rummage sale, we are only sending two delegates, **Rosalie Fryer** and **Sue Ellen Bannon**. The travelling trophy will be for the Unit/Post bringing the most white tube socks for amputees. Contact **Rosalie** if you have socks to donate to our cause. Unit/Post 305 currently holds the trophy after winning it last October.

At the March meeting we welcomed new member **Vergie Fussell**. Our membership now stands at 97 members which is about 90% of our goal for 2012.

Also in March we nominated one of our junior members, **Miranda Mills**, to compete at the state level for the national Spirit of Youth Scholarship. Later this year we will be looking at resurrecting the Unit 305 Scholarship with a raffle. **Joan Sparks** will be chairing that committee. Interviews for Girls State are going on now as we select two candidates for Unit 305 to send to Austin. **Stephanie Marshall** is organizing the interviews at The Woodlands and College Park high

schools. At the April meeting, we plan to discuss further second-quarter activities including fundraising and Memorial Day.

We hope to be out in force for Memorial Day - handing out poppies. We are looking for ideas for venues. The Farmers Market, the Post Office and our old venue - Kroger Sterling Ridge are all possibilities. As I see it, if there are Girls Scouts at Kroger's doors selling cookies, then we should be able to distribute poppies for our veterans.

As I mentioned in March, we are in the early planning stages for another Ride for Veterans in October. We are looking for a single location at which we can begin and end the ride.

Also at the April meeting, the nominating committee - **Rosalie Fryer, Joan Sparks** and **Sue Ellen Bannon** will announce their slate of officers for the May election. Please plan on attending this important meeting. The after-meeting social will be sandwiches and salads. **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling everyone to coordinate the dishes to be presented.

Have a Happy Easter and Happy Springtime. See you on the 19th!

Dayna Salter

AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT: Dayna Salter; Tel: (281) 229-1365; E-mail: dayna.j.salter@exxonmobil.com
VICE PRESIDENT: Geri Mulvihill; Tel: (832) 620-6265; E-mail: geri.mulvihill@yahoo.com
SECRETARY: Sandie Holzinger; Tel: (281) 364-8590; E-mail: zing1991@yahoo.com
TREASURER: Jackie Jones; Tel: (832) 229-6429; E-mail: jackie01957@gmail.com
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
Asst SGT-AT-ARMS: Annie Smith; Tel: 281-367-4714 E-mail: c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.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: ursjmcconnell@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WHERE?</u>
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
Sat.	April 14	7 th District Convention	Livingston Post 312
Mon.	April 16	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Thur.	April 19	Membership Meetings-Elections	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Tues.	May 8	VE Day Declared	Germany surrendered
Mon.	May 14	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
Thur.	May 17	Membership Meetings-Installations	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM
	May 18-20	2d Division Convention	Holiday Inn & Suites – Beaumont TX
Sat.	May 19	Armed Forces Day	
Mon.	May 28	Memorial Day (Observed)	National Cemetery – Houston
Wed.	May 30	Memorial Day (Original)	
Thur.	June 14	Flag Day	
Mon.	June 18	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00PM
Thur.	June 21	Membership Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00PM
Wed.	July 4	Independence Day Parade	Houston National Cemetery
	July 11-15	Texas Department Convention	Crowne Plaza Hotel. - Houston
Mon.	July 16	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00PM
Thur.	July 19	Membership Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00PM

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**.

POST OFFICERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

COMMANDER Kimberly Biggerstaff; Tel: (281) 296-9344; E-mail: kimgator5747@sbcglobal.net

1st VICE CMDR.: Emery Heuermann; Tel: (281) 362-8431; E-mail: emeryheuermann@charter.net

2nd VICE CMDR: (vacant)

ADJUTANT: Pickens Jones; Tel: (281) 367-7631; E-mail: pickensjones@usa.net

FINANCE OFFICER: (vacant)

SERVICE OFFICER: Dayton Denton; Tel: (832) 928-6054; E-mail: whselfstorage1@yahoo.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Jim Bolin; Tel: (281) 251-2352; E-mail: jpb20006@sbcglobal.net

ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS: Robert Earl Jones; Tel: (832) 229-6364; E-mail: ejones2100@aol.com

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

ASS'T. CHAPLAIN: Rudy Charest; Tel: (281) 363-9710; E-mail: rrgc26@aol.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Joe Hammond; Tel: (281) 367-0452; E-mail: ejoehammondhh@hotmail.com

HISTORIAN: Win Salter; Tel: (281) 370-1912; E-mail: beadyeye@aol.com

EXEC. COMM./AT-LARGE: Mickey Fussell; Tel: (281) 367-7115; E-mail: v.h.fussells@gmail.com

EXEC. COMM./AT-LARGE: Stephen O'Driscoll; Tel: (281) 367-2711; E-mail: ssodriscoll@sbcglobal.net

~ BUGLE EDITOR: Jim Bolin; Tel: (281) 251-2352; E-mail: jpb20006@sbcglobal.net

POST ADDRESS: American Legion Post 305; P.O. Box 9336; The Woodlands, TX 77387

Website = www.alpost305.org WEBMASTER: Emery Heuermann; emeryheuermann@charter.net
and mypost.org

Facebook Manager: Kimberly Biggerstaff; Tel; (281) 296-9344; E-mail: kimgator5747@sbcglobal.net

