



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305
 “THE WOODLANDS POST”
THE BUGLE



May 2012 Volume 8, Issue 5

COMMANDER’S CORNER



Cdr. Kimberly Biggerstaff

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

Thanks to **Emery Heuermann** for putting together our non-partisan political gathering at the last meeting. We had a very good turnout and it was very informative. Thanks to **Kenny Speight, James Noack** and **Jay Mac Sanders** for their participation.

I’m very proud to let you know that we’ll be sending 15 boys to Boys State this year. I want to thank **Kenny Speight, Emery Heuermann (in memory of Donald Heuermann), Milstead Auto, John Cooper High School, The Woodlands High School, College Park Village Association, Sterling Ridge Village Association, Michael McGee,** and **Panther Creek Village Assoc-**

iation for their donations. Thanks also to **Dayton Denton** and **Everett Ison.**

We will have our annual elections at the May meeting, but it’s not too late to be nominated for a position. We have some openings, such as Historian and Member-at-Large.

Our first casino trip went well. We are considering having another trip towards the end of July to L’auberge Casino.

Our rummage sale was held recently, and I want to thank all those who came out and helped, including the Auxiliary. Thanks to **Jim Bolin, Mickey Fussell, Pickens Jones, Chuck Suhr** and **Emery Heuermann.** We didn’t raise as much money as we have in the past, so keep that in mind for the next sale. We really need good items to sell and “big ticket” items. Remember, we only have a few fundraising events and this is how we support our veterans and programs like Boys State.

It’s not too late to nominate a member for Legionnaire-of-the-Year. Please write up your nominee and get it to an Executive Member before May 14.

The biggest thing to come from the District Convention was the

possibility of redistricting the state. The Long Range Planning Committee has been working on this project, and the links below will take you to the Plans that are being recommended to the Department. These Plans will be presented to the Department Executive Committee and a selected plan, if approved by the DEC, will then be presented to the Department Convention body for a vote at this year’s Department Convention in July. Please review the documents on the Department website at <http://txlegion.org/2012/03/28/redistricting-projected> and plan to attend the convention. Any questions about this should be addressed to our **District Commander, Everett Ison.**

The next meeting is May 17 at the Community Center at 7:00 PM.

For God and Country,
Kimberly Biggerstaff

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
(April 19, 2012)

Commander Biggerstaff opened the meeting in the prescribed manner. The Commander then recessed the meeting to allow three candidates for local offices to outline their platforms, limited to five minutes each. Those present were **Kenny Speight** (County Commissioner), **James Noack**

(County Commissioner) and **Jay Mac Sanders** (Township Board). After reconvening the meeting, the Commander called for approval of the minutes of the Executive Committee and Membership meetings, and it was done. Discussion followed about how to inform the members as to the coming election and the nominated slate of officers. This was resolved by vote of members to send such notice by email, to those who can receive email, and by snail mail to all other members.

The Commander then asked Sergeant-at-Arms **Bolin** about visitors present. Given the number of visitors, they were asked to stand and introduce themselves. Included were new Post members **LeRoy Lueder** and **Alvin Critten**.

On membership, the Commander reported that the Post includes 326 paid-up members of a goal of 398, or a percentage of 82. There are only two months left to get dues from the 72 members. The First Vice **Heuermann** is working on calling members who have not yet renewed.

Chaplain **Jerry Mulvihill** reported that **Dutch Dettinger** has finished with treatments and is waiting for results. He is, however feeling pretty good. **Win Salter** has endured a third chemo cycle, and a CT scan is scheduled to assess the effects. Our thoughts and prayers go with our comrades.

Under "Old Business", **Jim Bolin** reported that the Birdies for Charity netted \$1,090 for the Post and \$900 for the Auxiliary. There were no winners among us however. Jim also reported that the Rummage Sale gross was \$902.57, the lowest in many years! The Post voted to donate \$90.25 to the Auxiliary in

appreciation of its help with the Rummage Sale.

The Commander was pleased to announce that the Post will be sending 15 boys to Boys State, up from last year's 12. The Post then voted to purchase a Surety Bond for three years affording up to \$25,000 in protection at a cost of \$284.

Under "New Business", **Jim Bolin**, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate for officers during the 2012-2013 year. (Refer to positions and names in box below.) Nominations will be opened up again at the next meeting for any member who wants to name an alternative candidate or stand for election in any position. Election will occur after all nominations are closed.

Mickey Fussell informed the members that he is planning another casino daytrip for Tuesday, July 24th; this one to L'auberge Casino Resort in Lake Charles. The bus departs from the First Class Tours site on FM1960, east of I-45 at 9:00AM. Cost is \$16.00 per gambler, but the senior perks are either \$5.00 in coins or \$10.00 meal voucher. Bus riders must make reservations seven days in advance by

calling (281) 443-1200. Any questions; phone Mickey at (281) 367-7115.



The Commander noted that Post and Auxiliary came in third at the recent District 7 contest to collect white tube socks to send to VA hospitals.

Commander **Biggerstaff** asked District Commander (and Post member) **Everett Ison** to discuss the proposed redistricting of the Department's 22 districts to take into consideration the state population changes which have occurred since the last such event. Ison indicated the outcome should have little effect on Post 305; whatever option is recommended by the DEC and approved at the Department Convention.

No topics were offered "For the Good of the Legion", thus the meeting was closed in the prescribed manner.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Current Slate of Nominees for Officerships for 2012-2013 | |
| Commander ----- | Pete Koch |
| First Vice Commander ----- | Emery Heuermann |
| Second Vice Commander ----- | Mickey Fussell |
| Adjutant ----- | Pickens Jones |
| Chaplain ----- | Jerry Mulvihill |
| Finance Officer ----- | Kimberly Biggerstaff |
| Judge Advocate ----- | Everett Ison |
| Sergeant-at-Arms ----- | Jim Bolin |
| Historian ----- | (open) |
| Service Officer ----- | Dayton Denton |
| Executive Committee ----- | Steve O'Driscoll |
| Members-at-Large ----- | Victoria Glover |



VETERANS ADVOCATE

SCAMS, SPOOFS OR ID THEFT

There are phony emails being sent to individuals, including military members, military retirees and civilian employees which appear to be sent from a Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) site. In fact, these emails are from a non-government email account despite the “dot/mil” address. The topic of such email indicates that veterans receiving disability compensation from the VA may be able to obtain additional funds the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). If you are sent such notice and comply with its directions you are likely to experience financial loss. Never sent your personal info or copies of a VA award letter, tax returns, 1099's, RAS statements or Form DD-214 to the fake DFAS address. The “retired colonel” at the Florida address is scamming you, spoofing or worse.

(Source: <http://www.dfas.mil>;
Latest News – April 2012 ++)

ANOTHER DFAS SCAM

A letter is making the circuit purporting to be from DFAS asking military members fiancées to register in its system entitling them to benefits in the event of the GI's death, and all for only a \$350 fee. Bottom Line: It's not true. It's not a DFAS letter. It's a scam.

MORE BAD GUYS

Washington (AP) – For all you computer users, a few mouse

clicks could mean the difference between staying online and losing Internet connections this summer. International hackers ran an online advertising scam designed to take control of infected computers worldwide. The FBI, in a highly unusual response, set up a safety net months ago using government computers to prevent Internet disruptions for infected users. That system, about which the users were unaware, will be shut down on July 9th. Most hacker victims did not know their PC's were infected, although the malware slowed their websurfing and disabled their antivirus software, making the computers more vulnerable to other problems. When the FBI-run servers are unplugged, any computer still using that bridge will be disconnected from the Internet. The FBI is encouraging users to visit a website run by its security partner at <http://www.dcwg.org> that will inform the user whether he is infected and explain how to fix the problem. Do this before it is too late!

BIG TRICARE PHARMACY

No scam here! The Express Scripts Holding Company of St. Louis, which handles TRICARE home delivery meds accounts, announced on April 2, that it has completed its acquisition of MEDCO Health Solutions, a related pharmacy business, following an eighth-month review by the FTC, which endorsed the merger. The new company will be called “Express Scripts Holding Company” and will be the largest pharmacy benefits manager in the US, filling a combined 1.4 billion prescriptions a year.

TRIAP PROGRAM CANCELLED

The online behavioral health counseling service known as the TRICARE Assistance Program

(TRIAP) ended on March 31. DOD officials cited “lack of use” as the principal reason behind the decision to end the program. Military OneSource offers a broad range of similar services. It can be reached by phone at 1(800) 342-9657.

JOBLESS VETS STATS UP

Unemployment among recent veterans ticked up in March, a month after hitting its lowest point in nearly four years. A Bureau of Labor Statistics report shows 10.3% of post-9/11-era veterans were jobless in March, up from 7.6% in February. For all veterans, the unemployment rate increased only slightly to 7.5% from 7.0%.

'NAM VETS TO BE HONORED

Per the National Announcement and Proclamation Ceremony for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, the DOD will host such ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial (“The Wall”) in Washington, D.C. on May 28th. The event will thank and honor those who served in the Vietnam War. This is the first of many celebrations over the next few years honoring our Vietnam veterans.

VA VOLUNTEERING

Those of you who want to give your time and talent to support the care of America's veterans, or if you want to help but don't have the time, there are many ways you can help. Just fill out VA's volunteer form found at: <http://www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/volunteernow> and a local VA representative will contact you. (Sources: Various – April 1–15++)

MENINGITIS VACCINATIONS

If you college-bound teen must have a shot to prevent spinal meningitis, or for any other need,

you can expect to pay up to \$200 at your doctor's office. Consider the alternative of your County Health Department where such shot can be obtained in many jurisdictions for less than \$10.

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

IDENTITY THEFT RECOVERY

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the US. If you suspect you have been a victim of identity theft, take these steps:

~ Contact the fraud department of any of the three consumer reporting companies (below) to place a fraud alert on your credit record. You need to contact only one of these credit watchdogs.

~ Close out bank and/or credit card accounts that you know or suspect have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

~ File a report with your local police department.

~ File your complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Consumer Reporting Companies

Equifax – Tel: 1(800) 525-6285
P.O.Box 740241; Atlanta, GA 30374
<http://www.equifax.com>

Experian - Tel: 1(888) 397-3742
P.O.Box 9554; Allan, TX 75013
<http://www.experian.com>

TransUnion – Tel: 1(800) 680-7289
Fraud Victim Assistance Division,
P.O.Box 6790; Fullerton, CA 92834
<http://www.transunion.com>

EVENT BULLETIN BOARD WHAT ~ WHEN ~ WHERE

May 18-20, 2012: Second Division Convention: Delegates selected from the Posts of the Second 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 meetings and the Spring Department Executive Committee meetings.

May 17, 2012: Post Elections: At the membership meeting on this date, the Post will elect its Officers for the year 2012-2013. All members in good standing and present may vote in this election or run for an office. All Officers are elected from Commander on down, and the Nominating Committee (Jim Bolin, Chair) has presented the slate appearing on page 2.

May 28, 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.

June 21, 2012: Flag Disposal Ceremony: A half hour before the Membership Meeting convenes, the Post will hold a ceremony to properly dispose of worn, faded, or torn flags that are no longer serviceable. Held once a year in June, it is a very touching ceremony. Come early and participate!

June 21, 2012: Officers' Installation Ceremony: The officers elected at the May meeting will be formally installed into their respective offices for the 2012-2013 year. This installation takes place near the close of the June Membership Meeting, and the first meeting where the new officers preside is the July meeting.

July 11 to 15, 2012: Department Convention: For the first time in a long time, the Department Convention will be held in Houston. This is the perfect time to attend your first Department Convention without having to pay for lodgings and travel many miles to get there. So, attend and learn more about your Legion so you can speak more easily about it to prospective members. And, there's opportunity for fun and relaxation. Crown Plaza Hotel, Houston.

July 19, 2012: New Officers Take Over: At the July meeting, the newly elected officers will run the meeting and carry out all the needed administrative actions to kick off the year, including the Commander's selection of new and ongoing programs to be funded and carried out, naming of Standing and Special committees and the appointment of chairpersons, at least. These guys and gals who occupy new chairs will need your support. So be there for them!

July 24, 2012: Casino Trip: For those of you who missed the last casino day-trip, you have joined the magnificent seven who went. Let's try for a larger turnout in our next jaunt; this time to L'auberge Casino Resort in St. Charles. (See Meeting Highlights for details.)

EARLY AMERICAN FLAGS

Before there were the “stars and stripes” of Betsy Ross fame or the “red, white and blue”, Americans saw need for other flags, particularly during times of conflict, including the Revolution and events leading to that break with England. A few of these banners are being used today to demonstrate some point; others are little known to the average American. This article is not comprehensive, but it cites and depicts the more commonly seen flags and a couple less well known.

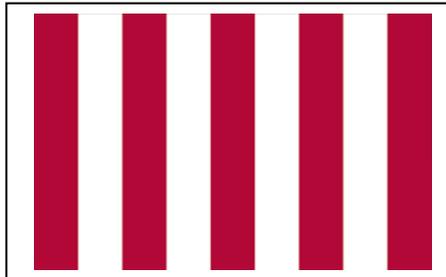
THE GADSTEN FLAG – In 1775, the United States Navy was established to intercept British ships carrying supplies to British troops in the colonies. The Second Continental Congress authorized the mustering of five companies of Marines to accompany the Navy on its first mission. The first Marines that enlisted were from Philadelphia, and they carried drums painted yellow, depicting a coiled rattlesnake with 13 rattles and the motto, “Don’t Tread On Me”. In Congress, representing



South Carolina, Continental Army Colonel Christopher Gadsden was one of the members of the Marine Committee charged with outfitting the Navy. Before the naval force left port, the newly-appointed commander, Commodore Esek Hopkins, was given a yellow rattlesnake flag as his personal standard.

SONS OF LIBERTY FLAG – As protests against British rule grew within the colonies prior to the Revolution, citizens banded together into “Sons of Liberty” societies. They would typically meet under some large tree and would erect “liberty poles” as a symbol of defiance. In 1765, in Boston, a flag was flown to

protest colonial treatment, and it became known as the “Sons Of Liberty Flag”. It consisted of nine vertical stripes – five red and four white, representing the nine colonies protesting the Stamp Act of 1765. (The other four colonies were in support but, due to the short notice given, their agreement was late.)



Later, the symbolism of “9” came to apply to the nine states represented at the adoption of the Constitution in 1797, and the nine states which ratified it into existence. In another version of the Sons of Liberty flag, 13 horizontal stripes, alternating red and white, were displayed.

FIRST NAVY JACK FLAG – The U. S. Navy adopted the rattlesnake as its icon of strength and courage and the unity of the American states. Individually, the rattles of the snake have no sound, but once joined can be heard by all. While it does not strike unless threatened, once provoked, the deadly rattlesnake never surrenders. Thus, the Navy’s first shipboard jack was a flag with horizontal red and white stripes, with



a yellow rattlesnake superimposed and the motto, “Don’t Tread On Me” across the lowest white stripe.

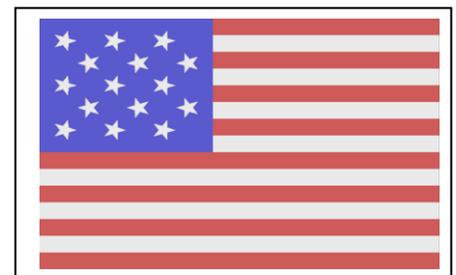
VETERAN EXEMPTS FLAG – Veterans of the Revolution from upstate New York and the Ohio territory were deemed exempt from additional military service, and many had been compensated by grants of

land on the frontiers. They organized themselves as the “Veteran Exempts” and enabled the younger militia to go off to war while the older men stayed at home to protect the settlements. Veteran Exempts were mobilized during the War of 1812 and fought in the Battle of Plattsburgh, New York. The Veteran Exempts flew a flag with a black ground with 13 silver stars on a white canton. In the center of the



flag was a skull and crossbones surmounted by a coiled rattlesnake. Wreaths above and below carried the mottos “Don’t Tread On Me” and “They Will Be Done”.

FORT McHENRY FLAG – Fort McHenry, guarding Baltimore harbor and the site of the Battle of 1814 which gave birth to our national anthem, flew a flag which was commissioned by the Fort’s commander, Major George Armistead. It displayed 15 white stars on a blue field and 15 stripes, alternating red and white. The design was similar to the 15-star flag, adopted as the national standard in 1795 and prevailed to 1818. The 15 stars and stripes reflected the statehood of Kentucky and Vermont, the next two



states admitted following the original 13. In 1818, Congress proclaimed that each new state would add a star to the flag, but the stripes would revert to the original 13.

W. O. Salter
Historian

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



Dayna Salter, President

Please join us on May 17th for the annual Elections Meeting. The Nominations Committee (**Fryer, Bannon and Sparks**) presented the slate of candidates at the April Meeting. The slate includes **Dayna Salter**, President; **Geri Mulvihill**, Vice President; **Sandie Holzinger**, Secretary; **Ursula McConnell**, Treasurer; **Stephanie Marshall**, Historian; **Mary Lee Mulvihill**, Chaplain; **Annie Smith**, Sgt at Arms; and **Mary Bolin** as a Member at Large. Two other members at large were nominated from the floor: **Jenny Le** and **Liz Heurmann**. Anyone wishing to nominate other candidates is free to do so at the May 17th meeting. The elected candidates will be installed at the June 21st meeting.

New member, **Ryan Leuder**,

joined Unit 305 in April. With 98 members now, we are closer to our goal of 106 members.

Good news from our Rummage Sale table. We raised about \$350 with \$50 earmarked for care packages to be shipped to deployed military personnel.

Our next fundraising efforts will include a kickoff for the resurrected Unit 305 scholarships with a "Bakeless" Bake Sale. Watch your email or snail mail boxes for the information. **Joan Sparks** chairs the Scholarship Committee. Further, we are trying something new with a catalog Tupperware sale where 40% of the sales come back to the Unit. **Jenny Le** is chairing that effort. Please contact Joan or Jenny for further information.

Joan Sparks, Veronica Maiolo and **Rosalie Fryer** took part in a Unit-sponsored Program at Birnham Woods Elementary School on April 17th. Three children of deployed servicemen were honored with Toys-R-Us gift cards and piggy banks. The moms and a teacher were also honored with blue star pins.

Stephanie Marshall and her team of interviewers (**Sparks,**

Fussell and **Maiolo**) have identified three candidates for Girls State in June plus alternates. This year, The Woodlands High School sponsored 2nd candidate through a donation to the Unit.

Memorial Day weekend will be our first Poppy event of the year. We plan to distribute poppies at the Kroger stores at Cochran's Crossing and Sterling Ridge on Thursday, May 24th. We are looking into a Post Office venue Friday, May 25th. And, we have reserved a booth at the Farmer's Market at South Mill Bend and Grogan's Mill on Saturday, June 2nd. More information will be available at the May meeting.

The new directories are available and were handed out at the April meeting. Please contact me for a copy. Our sincere thanks go to Post member **Emery Heurmann** for his help with the printing.

The May after-meeting social will be potluck. **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the dishes to be presented.

I am saddened to report the passing of longtime member Betty Boylan. She was cremated and will be interred in Missouri next to her husband.

- **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: rcofryer@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> |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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-Elections | South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM |
| Fri. | May 18 to | Second Division Convention | Holiday Inn & Suites – Beaumont TX |
| Sun. | May 20 | | |
| Sat. | May 19 | Armed Forces Day | |
| Mon. | May 28 | Memorial Day (Observed) | National Cemetery – Houston |
| Wed. | May 30 | Memorial Day (Original) | |
| Tues. | June 3 to | Boys State Convenes / Concludes | Austin |
| Sun. | June 8 | | |
| Thur. | June 14 | Flag Day | |
| Mon. | June 18 | Post Executive Committee Meeting | South County Community Ctr. @7:00PM |
| Thur. | June 21 | Membership Meeting -Installations | South County Community Ctr. @7:00PM |
| Sun. | July 1 | Post Certifications Due to Dept. | |
| Wed. | July 4 | Independence Day Parade | The Woodlands Methodome |
| Wed. | July 11 to | Texas Department Convention | Crowne Plaza Hotel. – Houston |
| Sun. | July 15 | | |
| 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

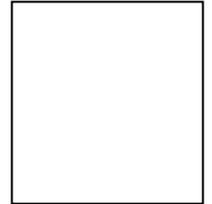
COMMANDER Kimberly Biggerstaff; Tel: (281) 296-9344; E-mail: kimgator5747@sbcglobal.net
 1st VICE CMDR.: Emery Heuermann; Tel: (281) 362-8431; E-mail: emeryheuermann@charter.net
 2nd VICE CMDR: (vacant)
 ADJUTANT: Pickens Jones; Tel: (281) 367-7631; E-mail: pickensjones@usa.net
 FINANCE OFFICER: (vacant)
 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
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 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
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 and mypost.org
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American Legion Post 305
The Woodlands Post
P. O. Box 9336
The Woodlands, TX 77387



If we had your e-mail address, you would have received this Bugle electronically.