



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305
 “THE WOODLANDS POST”
THE BUGLE



June, 2012 Volume 8, Issue 6

COMMANDER’S CORNER



Cdr. Kimberly Biggerstaff

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

This is most likely my last Commander’s Corner due to our elections that were held in May. I’d like to thank **everyone** who supported me during this past year. I learned a lot from the membership and others I confided in. Thanks to my Executive Committee: **Emery, Pickens, Jim, Jerry, Dave, Dayton, Win, Mickey, Steve, and Joe.** I’d also like to thank **Everett** and **George** for being available to answer any questions I had.

There are many people in our organization who help make it successful. Without all of you, we could not have rummage sales, send high school juniors to Boys State, participate in parades and color guard activities, and give

scholarships. Thanks to **Chuck** for bringing the drinks to the meetings, and **Harlen** for taking our cans to be recycled. Thanks to those who volunteer to help interview the Boys State and scholarship applicants. Thanks to **Lacey** for being a committee chairman and to all my committee chairmen.

There are so many people that have helped me over the past year. If I have not named someone for their work or volunteering, please know that your work and help are very much appreciated.

Thanks to **Ann, Dayna, Rosalie, Sue Ellen** and **all the members of Unit 305.** Without the Auxiliary, it would be very difficult to get as much done as we do. We also appreciate the food they provide out of their own pockets for our meetings.

Although I won’t be Commander, I will be taking over as Finance Officer. This will be another new experience and an opportunity to learn even more about the Post and The American Legion.

I went to the Second Division Convention in Beaumont. We elected a new Division Commander. Congratulations to John Palasota from Post 618, Willis.

We will have our annual Flag Disposal Ceremony at 6:30 PM on June 21. This ceremony shows how a flag that is worn or needs to be disposed of is done properly. You may bring any flags and we will take care of them. Please arrive early for this event at the Community Center, just before the regular meeting.

We’ll also be installing our new officers at the June meeting. I want to congratulate and wish **Pete Koch** the best of luck as he takes over as Commander. I know he’ll do his best for The American Legion and Post 305.

The next meeting is June 21 at the Community Center at 7:00 PM.

For God and Country,
Kimberly

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
(May 17, 2012)

Commander Biggerstaff opened the meeting in the prescribed manner. After approval of the previous meeting’s minutes, the Commander then asked Sergeant -at-Arms **Jim Bolin** about visitors present. Since there were no visitors present, the Commander moved on to give the Finance Officer’s Report. She reported that the General Fund contained \$18,941.14, while the Allocated

Fund total was \$22,355.92, for a Total Assets of \$41,297.06.

On membership, the Commander reported that the Post includes 329 paid-up members of a goal of 398, or a percentage of 82.6. There is only one month left to get dues from 69 more members. The First Vice **Heuermann** is working on calling members who have not yet renewed.

Sergeant-at-Arms **Jim Bolin** noted that he has four members to serve as the Color Guard at the Memorial Day Ceremony. Our Comrades in Distress was reduced by one as **Dutch Dettinger** was present at the meeting. **Win Salter** had good results from the scan following his third chemo. Service Officer **Dayton Denton** reported that he conducted a burial service for **Frank Canfield** that went very well. About 20 people were present. He also noted that the Post will be sending 14 boys to Boys State, starting in the middle of June.

Under "New Business", **Jim Bolin**, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate for officers to serve during the 2012-2013 year. (Refer to positions and names in box below.) Nominations were opened

up again to any member who wanted to name an additional candidate to run for any office. There were no changes to the slate and the Adjutant was directed to cast one vote for every non-contested position. The Adjutant complied and the slate was elected as indicated below. Installation of the new Officers will be at the June Meeting.

Several announcement of interest were made:

~ There will be a picnic June 16th from 10 AM to 2 PM at Ridgewood Park in Panther Creek to commemorate Flag Day. Bring chairs or be ready to stand.

~ The Department Convention will be held in Houston this year, a good chance for us all to visit and see what happens at the Convention. Location is the Crown Plaza Hotel at Reliant Stadium from July 11 thru July 15th.

~ It was suggested that we try to get a group of July 4th Parade participants together after the parade to go to lunch. If you are interested, ask around after the parade and we will find you.

~ Wreaths Across America is now selling wreaths to put on the grave sites at the National Cemetery in December. If you are interested, check with the Commander.

~ We still have 24 Entertainment

Coupon Books to sell. We have covered our cost, but not yet raised any funds for our own account.

The Meeting was closed in the prescribed manner at 8:10 PM.



VETERANS ADVOCATE

MEDALLIONS FOR VETERANS' GRAVES

The Department of Veterans Affairs has streamlined the process for families of deceased veterans to receive a medallion which can be affixed to grave markers at private cemeteries and indicates the veteran status of the deceased. "This new form streamlines the ordering process, making it easier for families to order the medallion," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "The families want everyone to know that their loved one was a veteran. We should help them do that in any way we can." Previously, families ordered the medallion using a form to order a government headstone or marker. VA has introduced a new form – VA Form 40-1330M – for use solely to order a medallion. The older form, VA Form 40-1330, remains in place to order a traditional government headstone or marker.

The medallion is a device furnished in lieu of a traditional Government headstone or grave marker for veterans whose death occurred on or after November 1,

Electees 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

1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Under federal law, eligible veterans buried in a private cemetery are entitled to either a government-furnished grave marker or the medallion, but not both.



The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches and 1 ½ inches in width. Each bronze medallion features the image of a folded burial flag adorned with laurels and is inscribed with the word “Veteran” at the top and the veteran’s branch of service at the bottom. Next of kin receive the medallion, along with a kit that allows the family or the staff of a private cemetery to affix the medallion to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum or columbarium niche cover.

The medallion is available only to veterans buried in private cemeteries without a government headstone or marker. Families of eligible decedents may also order a memorial headstone or marker when remains are not available for interment. More information about the medallion or headstones and markers can be found at: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmorder.asp>. To download the VA Form 40-1330M Claim for Government Medallion, go to <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-1330M.pdf>.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. Nearly four million Americans, including veterans of every war and conflict -- from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan -- are buried in VA's National Cemeteries on more than 19,000 acres. Veterans with a discharge issued under conditions other than dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in a VA National Cemetery. Other burial benefits available for all eligible veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a national cemetery or a private cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone, grave marker or medallion. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the VA Web site on the Internet at www.cem.va.gov or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.

TRICARE USER FEES UPDATE

The House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel has declined to give the Obama administration new authority it sought to phase in higher TRICARE fees on military retirees over the next four years and to peg future TRICARE fee hikes to medical inflation nationwide. But the Subcommittee did not adopt discreet language, as it has in the past years, that would block any TRICARE fee increases. It also did not include language, as it has previously, that would prohibit the Department of Defense from using existing authority to raise co-payments on prescription drugs for dependents and retirees who use neighborhood pharmacies or the TRICARE mail-

order pharmacy program. Another sign that the issue of higher TRICARE fees is not settled for this year comes from Sen. Lindsey Graham (SC), ranking Republican on the Armed Services' Subcommittee on Military Personnel. A day before the House panel marked up its portion of its defense bill, and stayed silent on raising medical out-of-pocket costs for retirees, Graham predicted a compromise on health-fee hikes between the two chambers by 30 September. He said, "Between now and the end of the fiscal year, I hope we can convince the House to accept some adjustments in premiums for TRICARE, because it's just unsustainable right now."

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

PATTON'S D-DAY ROLE

By mid-1943, the Axis powers still controlled mainland Europe. Although Soviet victory at the Battle of Stalingrad had begun to turn the tide on the German advance, Stalin was desperate for a second European front to divert German troops from the East.

With the invasion of Italy well underway, Roosevelt, Churchill

and Stalin met to discuss military strategy in November 1943 in Tehran. They agreed to mount a major invasion of France (code-named "Operation Overlord") in the hope of regaining access to Europe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower was given command of the top-secret offensive, whose date was referred to as "D-Day"

In the spring of 1944, Ike gave General George S. Patton command of a mighty army to spearhead the invasion of France. The First US Army Group consisted of 11 divisions assembled near the White Cliffs of Dover, readying to cross over the English Channel at its narrowest point and invade France at Pas-de-Calais.

But, it wasn't a real army; it was a giant con job!

The Allies wanted to convince Hitler that the planned invasion was just a diversion; that the real

invasion was going to come more than one hundred miles away, near Cherbourg. So began "Operation Quicksilver".

Set designers from London's famous Shepperton Studios were brought in to create the illusion of a massive army where there was none. They created battalions of rubber tanks and regiments of wooden soldiers. Canvas airplanes were parked on fake runways and harbors were filled with dummy landing craft. Radio operators sent huge amounts of bogus traffic, orders to and from units that did not exist.

A professor of architecture from Britain's Royal Academy used broken sewer pipes and rusty old oil tanks to create a fake refinery. Movie studio wind machines blew clouds of dust over the site, making it look as if construction was proceeding at a furious rate.

Numerous other ruses were also employed to mislead the Germans. For example, actor M. E. Clifton-James, impersonating British General Bernard Montgomery, traveled to Gibraltar and Algiers shortly before D-Day to convince Germans that something was cooking there. These deceptions fooled Hitler and his generals completely.

Even after the Allies stormed the beaches of Normandy on June 6, the Germans held their Panzer divisions in reserve, waiting for a phantom invasion by a ghost army that was purely the product of Allied imagination. That gave the Allies the time they needed to secure the beachhead and make possible the triumph of D-Day.

At first, General Patton was discouraged not to be leading the real invasion, but he warmed to his role as commander of a non-existent army, racing around the south of England making fighting speeches and maintaining a high profile. "I am a natural born ham" he said.

EVENT BULLETIN BOARD WHAT ~ WHEN ~ WHERE

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 4, 2012: The Woodlands 4th of July Parade: All members of the Post are welcome and encouraged to be a part of the Post's entry into the 4th of July Parade. Ride the float or walk along side. Be a part of this great celebration. Parade leaves from The Woodlands Methodist Church on the corner of Lake Woodlands Drive and Grogan's Mill Road at 9:00 AM. Come early because there will be a crowd.

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, at Reliant Stadium.

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 can join the magnificent seven who went. Let's try for a larger turnout on our next jaunt; this time to L'auberge Casino Resort in St. Charles, Louisiana.

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



Dayna Salter, President

Our May meeting featured the election of the following new officers: **Dayna Salter**, President; **Geri Mulvihill**, Vice President; **Sandie Holzinger**, Secretary; **Ursula McConnell**, Treasurer; **Stephanie Marshall**, Historian; and **Mary Lee Mulvihill**, Chaplain. **Mary Bolin**, **Liz Heurmann** and **Jenny Le** were elected Members at Large. The new officers will be installed at the June 21st meeting in a ceremony conducted by **Rosalie Fryer** who replaces the North Carolina bound **Sue Ellen Bannon** as Parliamentarian. We will have a short business meeting due to the Unit/Post installation ceremonies.

Part of our meeting will be a dis-

cussion of VA&R programs for the upcoming year. Our Memorial Day Poppy Activities were a huge success. We grossed over \$1000. As a Unit, we need to decide how to put the Unit VA&R funds to good use. Homeless veteran projects and PTSD projects are the focus of the statewide efforts, but all ideas are welcome.

Our scholarship fundraising efforts continue with the Bakeless Bake Sale and a raffle of a patriotic Teddy Bear. Please contact me or **Joan Sparks** if you have a candidate for this summer's scholarship competition.

The Tupperware fundraising effort has been extended to the June 21st meeting. Please bring your orders then. Delivery will be at the July meeting. For information, please contact **Jenny Le**.

The Department of Texas convention is in Houston this year at the Reliant Crowne Plaza, July 12-13-14. If you are interested in learning more about the Auxiliary and meeting members from other units, please consider going. We have 6 votes as Unit 305 and can sponsor 6 delegates. However, any Auxiliary member may attend.

Also, despite not having a Junior Unit per se, we have many Junior members. Juniors may attend the Department convention, and we will sponsor them. Please let me know if you are interested or you want to bring a Junior member. The delegate list will be finalized at the June meeting.

Please don't forget the Farmer's Market booth on June 2nd at South Millbend and Grogan's Mill. We have a good number of volunteers to sell t-shirts, cookie paks, raffle tickets and solicit Poppy donations, but we can always use additional help.

Let me add one last plea for new membership. We stand at 98 members and are just 8 new members or renewals short of our goal of 106. If you can bring in one new member, it would be a great help. We have through the end of June to finalize our membership for the 2012 year.

The June after-meeting social will be sandwiches and salads. **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the dishes to be presented.

Happy Flag Day, **Dayna Salter**



NEW 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: Ursula McConnell; Tel: (713) 822-6139; E-mail: ursjmcconnell@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: Rosalie Fryer; Tel: (936) 520-8895; E-mail: rcfryer@charter.net
SGT-AT-ARMS: Annie Smith; Tel: (281) 367-4714 E-mail: c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:
Mary Bolin; Tel: (281) 251-2352; Email: jpb20006@sbcglobal.net
Liz Heurmann; Tel: (281) 362-8431; Email: lizheurmann@peoplepc.com
Jenny Le; Tel: (281) 907-0493; Email: jmlchirp@yahoo.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WHERE?</u>
Tues.	June 3 to	Boys State Convenes / Concludes	Austin
Sun.	June 8		
Wed.	June 6	D-Day – Invasion of Normandy (1944)	
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
Fri.	July 27	Korean War Ended (1953)	
Tues.	Aug. 14	Japan Surrendered (1945)	
Mon.	Aug. 17	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00PM
Thur.	Aug. 20	Membership Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00PM
Mon.	Sept. 3	Labor Day	
Tues.	Sept. 11	Patriot Day (9/11 Attacks)	
Mon.	Sept. 17	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00PM
Thur.	Sept. 20	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**.

OUTGOING 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: rrogc26@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