



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 "THE WOODLANDS POST" THE BUGLE



August, 2012 Volume 8, Issue 8

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Commander Pete Koch

Dear Legionnaires,
I would like to thank everyone who attended our July 19th meeting at the South County Community Center in the Woodlands. I really look forward to working with everyone in promoting the American Legion and what it stands for in the United States of America and Texas in particular.

We shared information concerning the steady decline in membership within the American Legion and what we, as a Post, can do to turn this around. One subject that was brought up was that we are now losing many of our World War II veterans to the Post Everlasting as they age and most of our members are now of the Vietnam Era. This means that we have to start to reach out to the veterans of the recent conflicts to fill these

places. In the next few weeks, we will be forming a Committee to analyze the situation at Post 305 and come up with a plan to advance the membership within the Legion and within our Post. We will announce the program at the August Post meeting, as it will take each and everyone one of us to accomplish this worthwhile task, and I know you are all up to the challenge.

We are also revisiting our Committees such as the following: Oratorical Contest, Boys State, Scholarship, Flag Etiquette, Flag Disposal, Funerals, Color Guard, Membership, Fund Raising, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Public Relations, Children & Youth, Legislative, POW/MIA, Employment, Boy Scouts and Community Service. We will be asking for volunteers to help us on these committees, so if you would like to assist in any one of these programs, just let us know and we will place you on the list. If you should require further information concerning a particular committee prior to committing, please contact us, and we will send you a detailed definition and purpose of the committee in question.

The Post is in the final stages of reviewing the Post Constitution and By-Laws to assure we are in compliance with the Department and National Constitution and By-

Laws. In performing the review, it has been decided to re-energize our American Legion Riders Program. We will also add two more officer positions to our Post. They will be Assistant Chaplain and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. When the review has been completed, it will be submitted to the membership prior to final submission to the Department of Texas.

During the Department Convention in Houston, this month, Post 305 was awarded second place for our Website. All thanks go to our Post 305 WebMaster and **First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann**. District 7, of which we are a member, placed in the top 10 Districts within the State of Texas. Post 305 **Past Commander Kimberly Biggerstaff** was awarded the honor of representing the District at the National Convention in Indianapolis in August of this year.

I would like to remind everyone that our annual picnic is rapidly approaching. The date is Thursday, October 18th and it will be held at Shadowbend Park on Lake Woodlands Drive. This is a great time to relax and enjoy the comradeship with each other. Hamburgers, hot dogs and bratwurst will be provided by the Post. More details will be disseminated next month.

Our next Post meeting will be Thursday, August 13th. Please come and enjoy the comradeship of fellow veterans and help us to make Post 305 the best in Texas.

For God and Country ~~~~~
Pete Koch

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
(July 19, 2012)

Commander Koch 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. **Brian Claypool**, a veteran of the Vietnam War, introduced himself. The Commander moved on to call on **Kim Biggerstaff**, the Finance Officer, to give the Finance Report. She reported that the General Fund contained \$16,756.19, while the Allocated Fund total was \$22,360.65 for a Total Assets of \$39,117.27.

On membership, the **First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann** noted that it was early in the year and statistics on membership were not yet available. He did report that our goal for the new year was 333, which is 1% higher than our achieved membership last year..

Our **Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Bolin** had no report. Our Comrade in Distress, **Win Salter**, is doing better and expects to be back around Veterans Day. **Service Officer Dayton Denton** is away until September. **Second Vice Commander Mickey Fussell** reported on the 4th of July parade, declaring it a success as we had all the seats filled on the float. He also noted that the projected trip to the L'Auberge Casino Resort on the 24th of July was next

Tuesday and it was time to call and reserve a seat on the bus if you were inclined to go.

Under Unfinished Business, we were reminded of the farewell get-together for **Sue Ellen** and **George Bannon** on Saturday evening at the **Bolin's. Pickens Jones** reported that he still has Entertainment Books for sale.

Under New Business, **Kim Biggerstaff** recommended that we consider placing a booth at The Woodlands celebration of National Night Out on Sept. 22nd. **Pickens Jones** noted that he had distributed post card applications for free Accidental Death Insurance and he would send them into the Department if members would return the filled out card to him. The Commander announced that the Constitution and By-Laws need to be updated to conform to the revised Department Constitution and By-laws. **Everett Ison** reported on the results of the Department Convention. **Dan Corbin** was elected as Department Commander for the next year. Everett also discussed membership in the Legion.

Under For the Good of the Legion, **George Bannon** notified us that **Kim Biggerstaff** was the only person in the Department who was awarded a free scholarship to the Legion College in Indianapolis. **Emery Heuermann** suggested that we all congratulate Kenny Speight on his run for County Commissioner. It may not have been successful, but it was well done.

The Meeting was closed in the prescribed manner at 8:10 PM. and refreshments were served.

AWARDS AT THE MEETING

The Commander presented two awards to Post members at the July 19th Meeting. The first award was to George Bannon in recognition for Loyalty, Devoted Service and Leadership to Post 305 and the American Legion, as he served in Post, District, Division, Department and National leadership positions.



LtoR: Past Cdr. Kim Biggerstaff, George Bannon, Cdr. Pete Koch

Next, **Commander Pete Koch** presented a plaque to **Past Commander Kim Biggerstaff** in appreciation for her leadership this past year as Commander.



L-R Cdr. Biggerstaff, Cdr. Koch



VETERANS ADVOCATE

COLA 2013 UPDATE

Veterans will receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase in their disability benefits if the bill passed July 9 by the House receives the same treatment in the Senate. The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living-Adjustment Act of 2012 passed the House on a voice vote. It would provide a cost-of-living boost equal to that given to Social Security recipients. Rep. Jon Runyan (R-NJ) introduced the bill. After it passed, he said, "Congress knows that veterans are dependent upon us acting in a timely manner with regards to their needs. By acting on the yearly COLA this summer instead of waiting until the last minute, we tell America's veterans that we remain dedicated to ensuring that they are given the benefits they were promised when they signed up to serve." If passed by the Senate and signed by the President, the law will go into effect December 1. A press release from the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs estimates the COLA for this year will be approximately 1.9 percent. Runyan has also introduced the American Heroes COLA Act, which would put in place a permanent COLA like that for Social Security recipients. That legislation has been passed out of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and is awaiting vote by the full

House. [Source- Washington Report, 10 Jul 2012]

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

At all military funerals, a military honor detail should be present. This detail should consist of at least two active members of the Armed Forces. One of these members should belong to the same branch of the military as the deceased. This detail, though, can consist of many more people. They can be active or retired members of the military and/or members of veterans organizations. The military honor detail should fold the flag of the United States. The flag is then presented to the deceased veteran's next of kin. If a next of kin is not present, the flag is given to a close friend or associate. The flag is usually presented by a military chaplain at the end of the funeral. Taps should be played at all military funerals. If possible, this composition should be performed by a bugler in the military. However, if such a bugler is not available, taps may be played by a civilian musician or by an audio recording. Taps is usually performed at the conclusion of a funeral. According to the National Defense Authorization Act, the Department of Defense is required, if requested, to provide the above-mentioned honors for the funerals of veterans.

Some military funerals have a firing party that fires a three-volley salute over the grave. (In the Navy, a cannon is fired.) Many confuse the firing of three volleys by riflemen at military funerals with a 21-gun salute. This is not a 21-gun salute, however. The origin and significance of the military custom of firing rifle volleys at funerals is interesting. During the funeral rites of the Roman Army, the casting of the

earth three times upon the coffin constituted the burial. It was customary among the Romans to call the dead three times by name, which ended the funeral ceremony. As friends and relatives of the deceased Roman departed, they said "Vale", or farewell, three times. Over time, when firearms were introduced on the battlefield, the custom of firing volleys was established to halt the fighting to remove the dead from the battlefield. Once each army had cleared its dead, both sides would fire three volleys to indicate that the dead had been cared for and that they were ready to go back to the fight.

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

POST & UNIT ASSISTS CAF'S GULF COAST WING

On July 7, the Commemorative Air Force's Gulf Coast Wing held an all-day open house at the Wing's hangar home at David Wayne Hooks Memorial Airport. The Wing issued a call for volunteers to assist with site preparation, luncheon preparation and service and clean up. Post 305 and its Auxiliary provided four helpers and was allowed to set up and man a recruiting table. Three

flights of the Wing's B-17G "Flying Fortress" heavy bomber, "Texas Raiders" took place with paying public riders. Two bands entertained during lunch. The Post/Unit were represented by **Commander Koch, President Salter, Adjutant Jones** and **Rosalie Fryer.**



CAF's B-17G Flying Fortress
"Texas Raiders"

**DAYTRIP TO L'AUBERGE
CASINO RESORT**

On Tuesday, July 24 the august group shown below departed Houston for the wilds of Louisiana to challenge the fortunes of luck. L'Auberge is the second of the casinos on our agenda. We found it more opulent than Coushatta and the slots more stingy. The meal was great, but a couple in our group suffered from upset

stomachs afterwards. In short, we voted to remove it from our future trips.



L to R: Mickey Fussell, Victoria Glover, Mary Bolin, Jim Bolin.

Our next trip will be on Tuesday, September 4th. The bus leaves at 8:00 AM. from First Class Tours. Call (281) 443-1200 seven days in advance to make a reservation on the bus. Come on and get out of your rut and join us for some fun.

Jim Bolin

**FAREWELL GET-TOGETHER
WITH THE BANNON'S**

As noted in the Meeting Highlights, **George and Sue Ellen Bannon** are relocating to North Carolina to be closer to their kids. So, we got together at the Bolin's to have time to thank the **Bannon's** for their contributions

to both the Post and the Auxiliary. George is active in all levels of the Legion, Post, District, Division, Department, and National. He was Commander at the first three levels and on committees for Department and National. Sue Ellen was just as active on the Auxiliary serving in the Unit, District and Department.

Everyone brought something to eat or drink and we had a great time swapping war stories. We did take time out to present Sue Ellen with a Certificate of Appreciation and George with a pat on the back and long speeches by all who wanted to speak.

For the record their new address will be: 10322 Vanguard Parkway, Huntersville, NC 28078, and you can always reach them by email: George: gabannon@gmail.com and Sue Ellen: sueellenbannon@gmail.com .

A departure date has not yet been published so you still have time to give either one of the Bannon's a high five before they depart.

Jim Bolin

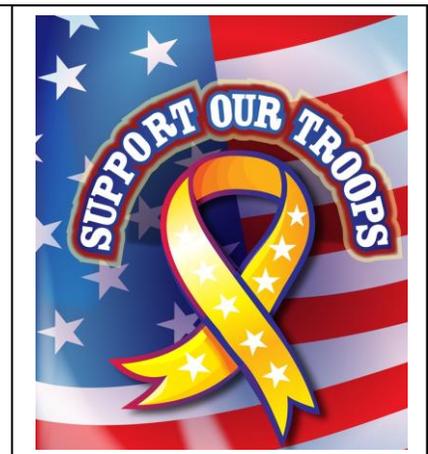
EVENT BULLETIN BOARD

~WHAT~WHERE~WHEN~

Tuesday, September 4: Casino Trip: This is the proposed date for the next daytrip to a Louisiana casino, probably Coushatta, but not yet decided. The Post needs funds for its programs, so if you go and hit the jackpot, please make a tax deductible donation to the Post or the Unit.

Thursday, October 18: Oktoberfest Picnic: Although there will be a short business meeting, the evening will be devoted to just relaxin'. chewin' the fat and drinkin', all on the house. So, bring yourself, the spouse, the kids and a friend or two to Shadowbend Park on Lake Woodlands Drive. Action starts at 7:00 PM (except for the cooks and other set-up helpers). It will be one of the highlights of our social year!

Saturday, October 20: Semiannual Rummage Sale: Here it is again, the Fall rummage sale which takes place at Robinson Road Community Center. The Post needs gifts of good and useful items which now just clutter up the garage, store room, attic and even the living spaces. Some "big ticket" items will be most welcome. Donations are delivered to our storage lockers or can be taken directly to the sale site on set-up day, October 19. More info will be forthcoming, but start looking!



AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



Dayna Salter, President

Our July meeting included an enthusiastic report back from one of our Girls State attendees, **Abby Follis**. Abby thanked us for sending her to what she called a life changing experience. She hopes to attend Texas A&M, become part of the Cadet Corps, and after graduation join the Navy. We all wished her well in her studies and future plans.



Sadly, the July meeting was the last for **Sue Ellen Bannon** who is moving to North Carolina in August. We recognized her friendship, tireless service, her mentorship and wise counsel for for us all in Unit 305. She was awarded a certificate of appreciation, and a framed needlework piece, cross stitched by **Mary Bolin**.



Unit 305 was honored at the recent Department of Texas Convention with a plaque for excellence in our programs for Children and Youth. **Joan Sparks** accepted the award for the Unit. We also picked up certificates of appreciation for our work in the areas of VA&R, Poppies, Americanism, Education, and keeping our Constitution and By-Laws up to date.

Our 2012 Scholarship fund raising efforts were completed with a fund in excess of \$500, so it was decided to offer two \$250 scholarships this year. A Committee of **Dayna Salter**, **Geri Mulvihill** and **Stephanie Marshall** was appointed to determine the awards.

Looking forward to our next meeting in August, we will need to finalize plans for a Fall Crafts Show, discuss some options for veteran support programs and begin to secure venues for our Veterans Day poppy distribution. Please come with ideas, enthusiasm and commitment to our mission.

Our post meeting potluck theme will be "Potluck". Either **Veronica Maiolo** or **Joan Charest** will be calling around to determine the dishes to be presented. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Veronica who is recovering from carpal tunnel surgery.

See you in August, **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: Ursula McConnell; Tel: (713) 822-6139; E-mail: ursjmccconnell@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) 323-4530; Email: jmlchirp@yahoo.com

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Tues.	Aug. 14	Japan Surrendered (1945)	
Mon.	Aug. 17	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Aug 20	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Mon.	Sept. 3	Labor Day	
Tues.	Sept. 11	Patriot Day (9/11 Attacks)	
Mon.	Sept. 17	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Sept. 20	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Mon.	Oct. 15	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thurs.	Oct. 18	Oktoberfest Picnic	Shadowbend Park Pavillion @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Oct. 19	Set-Up Day for Rummage Sale	Robinson Road Community Ctr. @ 8 AM
Sat.	Oct. 20	Fall Rummage Sale	Robinson Road Community Ctr. @ 7 AM
Sat.	Oct. 27	Navy Day	
Wed.	Oct. 31	Halloween	Trick or Treat!
Tues.	Nov. 6	National Election Day	
Sat.	Nov. 10	Marine Corps Birthday	
Sun.	Nov. 11	Veterans Day	
Mon.	Nov. 12	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr, @ 7:00 PM
Thurs.	Nov 15	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM

POST OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

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

<u>POSITION, NAME & TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>			<u>E-MAIL</u>
COMMANDER:	Pete Koch	(936) 273-3588	petekoch@comcast.net
FIRST VICE CMDR:	Emery Heuermann	(281) 362-8431	emeryheuermann@charter.net
SECOND VICE CMDR:	Mickey Fussell	(281) 367-7115	v.h.fussells@gmail.com
ADJUTANT:	Pickens Jones	(281) 367-7631	pickensjones@usa.net
FINANCE OFFICER:	Kimberly Biggerstaff	(281) 296-9344	kimgator5747@sbcglobal.net
SERVICE OFFICER:	Dayton Denton	(832) 928-6054	whselfstorage1@yahoo.com
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:	Jim Bolin	(281) 251-2352	ipb20006@sbcglobal.net
ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS:	Robert Earl Jones	(281) 651-7083	ejones2100@aol.com
CHAPLAIN:	Jerry Mulvihill	(281) 353-5574	mulvihill1954@yahoo.com
ASS'T CHAPLAIN:	Rudy Charest	(281) 363-9710	rrgc26@aol.com
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Everett Ison	(281) 298-9524	eison01@comcast.net
HISTORIAN:	(open)		
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:			
	Steve O'Driscoll	(281) 367-2711	ssodriscoll@sbcglobal.net
	Victoria Glover	(832) 813-9415	goldvicgoddess@gmail.com

OTHER INFORMATION:

THE BUGLE BRASS: EDITOR: Jim Bolin

CIRCULATION: Emery Heuermann

WEBMASTER: Emery Heuermann

www.alpost305.org and www.mypost.org

FACEBOOK MANAGER: Kimberly Biggerstaff

MEETING DAY & PLACE: The Post and Auxiliary meet at the South County Community Center in The Woodlands at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month. The Auxiliary Unit hosts a pot-luck supper following the meetings. The Center is located on the southeast corner at the intersection of Lake Robbins Drive and Grogans Mill Road, next to the library.