



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 "THE WOODLANDS POST" THE BUGLE



September, 2012

Volume 8, Issue 9

## COMMANDER'S CORNER



**Commander Pete Koch**

Legionnaires,  
The August meeting went well. Being as August is the month where everyone attempts to take vacations and to get things they have put off done, the meeting was the shortest we ever had – approximately 45 minutes. We had a quorum so we were able to accept the meeting notes from the last Executive and Post meetings.

One of the subjects on the agenda was presented by the **Finance Officer Kimberly Biggerstaff**. We have reached total assets of over \$40,000.00 in our general fund, money market and CD and, with the help of the **Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Bolin**, are looking into a way to insure the best return on our moneys. They are researching investing in markets and evaluating other actions. If anyone of you has

been in the business of investments, please feel free to contact either **Finance Officer Kimberly Biggerstaff** or **Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Bolin**. We need to get the best and safest return on our moneys. Our financial report was accepted at the Executive Committee and Post meetings.

We are fortunate to have two new members joining us as well as a transfer member. The new members are **Brian Claypool** and **Shawn Mandel** and the transfer member is **Edward Troclair**. Please welcome them on board. We are attempting to start up a Sponsor Program where every new member is assigned a Sponsor who will be in charge of assuring that the veteran gets introduced to all the members, receives a new member welcome package, is introduced to the Committee Chairpersons and is given a chance to help on the committee of his/her choice. We need to assure our new members are made to feel as part of the family of Post 305 veterans.

**First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann** and **Commander Pete Koch** are working on a plan to set up a membership Drive. **Emery** will be setting up a committee to plan on how to attract the inactive membership and other potentially new mem-

bers. Membership is everyone's task. World War II veterans are in age from 82 years old to 95 years old and will be going to the Post Everlasting in the near future. The Korean and Vietnam veterans are between the years of 60 to 80. Other Wars extend from ages 20 to 45 years. This means there is a gap of 15 years in between. Per the spreadsheet for our Post on [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org), we have, on the roll 385 active members, with 39 that are in arrears from 2011. We need to be contacting these veterans to see why they let their membership expire and attempt to get them back into the fold. At the present time, we have around 25 veterans that attend our monthly meetings. We have to find out why the rest of the active members do not attend and what will get them to attend. We will be looking for ways to spice up our meetings to make it a meeting that veterans want to attend and keep coming back each month. If any of you have any ideas, please forward them to us. We will let you know when we have the drive program developed and will be requesting your help.

We are still looking for volunteers to serve on several committees that were active within this Post. These include the Americanism Committee with such Sub-Committees as Boys State/Nation, Oratorical Contest, Flag Etiquette;

Ceremonies Committee with such Subcommittees as Flag Disposal, Funerals, Color Guard; Membership Committee; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee; and the Public Relations Committee (if you know of veterans with experience in this committee topic, please ask them to help us out, as this is a very critical committee to get our name out to the public). If you would like to assist in any one of these programs, please let us know as soon as possible.

**Chaplain Jerry Mulvihill** reported that Post member **Bob Anderson** is ill. Jerry passed a get-well card around for signatures. If you know Bob, and haven't signed the card, I believe he would feel good if he were to hear from you.

It was agreed that we would participate in The Woodlands "National Night Out" event. It will be held at North Shore Park on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September. Please see [www.woodlandsonline.com](http://www.woodlandsonline.com) for times. We have also agreed to participate in helping the Oak Ridge Elementary School for the construction of a Special Needs Playground. The Post will donate \$100.00 to help defer the costs. We will be working with the Auxiliary Unit 305 for this event.

We have two conventions coming up shortly. One is the District Convention to be held at Post 615, New Caney, on October 20, and the other, the Department Executive Committee Convention to be held in Austin from the 13<sup>th</sup> of December.

Remember our annual picnic is approaching quickly. The date is the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, and it will be held at Shadowbend Park on Lake Woodlands Drive. This is a great time to relax and enjoy the comradeship with other veterans

and their families. Hamburgers, hot dogs and bratwurst will be provided by the Post. More information will be available at our next meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September.

**For God and Country ~~~~~  
Pete Koch**

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (August 16, 2012)

**Commander Koch** opened the meeting in the prescribed manner. After approval of the previous meeting's minutes, and the Executive Committee Minutes, the Commander then called upon **Finance Officer Kim Biggerstaff** to give the Financial Report. She reported that the General Fund contained \$18,201.38, while the Allocated Fund total was \$23,420.68 for a Total Assets of \$40,571.01.

The Commander then asked the **Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Bolin** to introduce any visitors present. **Bill Houghton** was introduced as a visitor, and he spoke briefly about his time in the service. There was no report on membership due to the First Vice Commander being absent. Second Vice Commander **Mickey Fussell** noted that the Rummage Sale stock was low on items to sell and asked for us to get out in our neighborhood and ask folks for items to sell. He also reminded the membership of the upcoming trip to Coshatta Casino Resort on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Our **Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Bolin** had no report. **Chaplain Jerry Mulvihill** noted that **Bob Anderson** was fighting cancer and that he was sending a card around to be signed by the membership and then sent to Bob. **Service Officer Dayton Denton** is away until September.

Under New Business, The Membership approval of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes approved the spending of \$250 for Legion supplies and brochures to be used during National Night Out on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will be held from 9:00 AM. to 4:00 PM at North Shore Park. The membership also approved a \$100 donation to Oak Ridge Elementary School for a playground for Special Needs Children.

Commander **Pete Koch** presented **Carl Smith** with a 10-year, continuous membership pin.



L-R Carl Smith, Commander Pete Koch

There being no commentary under "For the Good of the Legion", the Meeting was closed in the prescribed manner at 7:45 PM, and refreshments were served by the Auxiliary.



VETERANS ADVOCATE

VA'S PLAIN LANGUAGE INITIATIVE

The Veterans Affairs Department has received failing grades from the Center for Plain Language for not complying with the "Plain

Writing Act of 2011”, which requires federal agencies to take certain steps toward making their rules and policies easier for the general public to understand. Agencies are graded on how well they meet the requirements of the law and how well they train employees and take other related steps. VA received an “F” in both departments, garnering only 10 out of a possible 100 points on the evaluation. Those points came because VA had named an official responsible for its plain-language initiative. VA intends to do better said spokeswoman Josephine Schuda. “We are confident that future ‘report cards’ will reflect the progress we are making,” she said in an easily understood statement. “VA is committed to providing veterans and other stakeholders with clear, useful information about their benefits and services. We have worked diligently to set up an organization that supports the requirements and spirit of the Plain Writing Act,” she said. [Source: Army Times article 13 Aug 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](http://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

### **RUMMAGING FOR THE POST**

I got the word at the August meeting; Post 305’s next Rum-

mage Sale is fast approaching (October 20<sup>th</sup>), and the need was for many more salable items and “big ticket” donations, in particular. I needed to see what I could part with. I assumed “big ticket” meant either rather large items, like a sofa bed, or anything that would be priced high, like at \$200. So, the other day I put on some old cut-offs, for comfort, and a pair of desert boots, and headed for the garage (my “Texas cellar”). I had in mind firstly getting rid of “Old Betsy”. Now, you may think she’s a classic car, but, no, Old Betsy is a well-endowed dressmaker’s dummy that once “worked” for my father-in-law’s mother. This thing stands in the northwest corner of the garage, but is barely visible due to all the stuff hiding it. Old Betsy was handed down, but used less and less by the women-folk, and it is built like a Mack truck. However, before I hauled it out, I had second thoughts: Old Betsy was no longer a marketable item and would just end up living in the storage locker and making semi-annual trips to Robinson Road Community Center.

I turned then to the four-drawer, steel, filing safe – a formidable piece. It used to be my father’s and has served well to protect valuable papers. The problem is, it got locked in the last move and the key has gone missing! It’s here somewhere, I know. I think it has a stack of 78-rpm record albums in the bottom drawer --- RCA Victor Red Label, no less, and paper records and treasures above. But, it is no candidate for donation if I can’t empty it!

My eyes fell next on my IBM PS-1 PC, with keyboard and pin-fed printer. My first PC is still working, and I have a nice collection of software on floppies and all the manuals. The downside is that it

is a-w-f-u-l-l-y s-l-o-w; must think a lot! Not likely to be snapped up at the Sale. A carton nearby held two 8-track, tape decks with speakers and a goodly number of tapes. One needs a new power cord. (The cat, rest her soul, chewed through the cord when it was plugged in.) So, at least one tape deck is operable and a selection of tapes ready to roll -- those not broken or disconnected. I noted among them “Rubber Soul”, “The Carter Family” and an early “Alabama”.

In another box, I found some musty paperbacks and booklets, among them a Civil Defense publication on “Building and Stocking Fall-Out Shelters”. Interesting, but not likely to attract a buyer. On the back wall shelves, I took note of a large pressure cooker, a 10-cup electric percolator, a hand-cranked ice crusher, two basic electric irons and another heated by gasoline flame --- a Coleman product. Next shelf down held a pair of steel, clamp-on, roller skates with one missing the front wheels and axle. But, the skate key was there on a rawhide loop. Beside the skates were a solid brass, B&O Railroad “thunder jug” and a U. S. Navy surveyor’s transit with missing cross-hairs. On the floor, I found a pair of snow tires in good shape, which I had forgotten. They were used part of the year on Dad’s Nash Rambler. Alongside, was a box of odd auto parts, including the hood ornament from a 1962 Plymouth, if memory serves, and an early CB radio with a magnetic antenna. I was beginning to get discouraged about a donation.

The garage closet was next. There were two radios I once appreciated – a white plastic, kitchen Crosley and an older, WWII, Hallicrafters S-38, short-

wave set in its gray steel case. There was a box of vacuum tubes in sleeves nearby. On the floor was my old Marine foot-locker full of "782 gear", as I knew it --- cartridge and pistol belts, canteen, mess kit, first-aid pouch, poncho (reversible), three tiny jars of Lubriplate, entrenching tool, two shelter halves with tent pole sections and pegs, a set of utilities, a field jacket and a pair of well-worn boondockers. All of it smelling just like the supply sergeant's shed at the base!

I left there, just scanned the garage, saw boxes of VHS tapes and a tape deck; a television set which no longer wants to receive; two Instamatic cameras – one with a film cassette half exposed; a table lamp in for fixing; a dozen ash trays each from a different hotel, bar or casino; boxes of unused playing cards courtesy of Braniff, Eastern, Northeast and Pan-Am airlines – perhaps others; three cartons of Windows 98 software; a bag of well-used golf balls --- some with a red stripe; a

cat-gut strung, wooden, tennis racket; a scratched pair of Hart skis with cable bindings and --- well, that's when I gave up. I certainly had no "big ticket" items to bring to the Sale and seem to have a colossal collection of the detritus of a long life. I hope you other Legionnaires fare better and can find salable items, especially "big ticket" qualifiers. The Post's stock is running low and we can't sell from an empty wagon!

**Win Salter**

## EVENT BULLETIN BOARD ~WHAT~WHERE~WHEN~

**Tuesday, September 4: Casino Trip:** This is the date for another daytrip to a Louisiana casino -- Coushatta Casino Resort, Kinder, Louisiana. If you have not made your bus reservation by now, you will have to wait for our next sortie. First Class Tours requires at least a seven-day advance reservation. For those of you on board, good luck and have an enjoyable time – win or lose.

**Saturday, September 22: National Night Out – The Woodlands:** The Post and Unit will be participating in The Woodlands National Night Out celebration at Northshore Park. The action is from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The annual event features community safety, where the First Responders show off an array of law enforcement and public safety vehicles, all toward a safer community. It will be a family-friendly day, filled with food, fun and safety demonstrations. Post 305 will have decorated table, so come join your comrades.

**Thursday, October 18: Oktoberfest Picnic:** Although there will be a short business meeting, the evening will be devoted to just relaxing, imbibing, chewing the fat and having a good time, 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, but our stock of all types of "yard-sale" items is low. So, reach out to your extended family and the neighbors and solicit donations. Items can be delivered to our storage lockers or can be taken directly to the sale site on set-up day, October 19. Contact **Mickey Fussell** or **Jim Bolin** about locker location and access.

**Sunday, November 11: Veterans Day:** This most important of days to us will be appropriately recognized. The Executive Committees are discussing what activities we will elect.

**Thursday, November 15: Boys State Grads To Be Honored:** Traditionally, the Post invites the young men who were sponsored for Boys State, together with their parents, to the November Membership Meeting. Beyond introducing these lads and hearing of their experience, we treat them to our Thanksgiving feast, prepared by the ladies of the Auxiliary. So, y'all come, hear?



# AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



**Dayna Salter, President**

Our August meeting included another enthusiastic report back from one of our Girls State attendees, **Maggie O'Brien** from the Woodlands High School. She thoroughly enjoyed her Girls State experience which included her election as one of the city "mayors". After finishing high school next spring, she hopes to attend college and major in biology/pre-med. Maggie was presented with a plaque and our good wishes for her future.

Plans for September include a couple of membership drives and fund raising opportunities. We will have an informational table and sell T-shirts at the BBQ and Cake Auction at the Holy Comforter Church, 2322 Spring Cypress in

Spring, September 1<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

We will also be at North Shore Park, along with the Post, for the Woodlands "National Night Out" on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00PM to 5:00PM. We hope to sell T-shirts, collect poppy donations and recruit new members.

**Joan Sparks** has been conducting a summer-long Americanism project to identify tattered flags and politely ask HOA's and business owners to replace them. Should any of you see a flag that should be gracefully retired and disposed of appropriately please contact her ([jzremo1@gmail.com](mailto:jzremo1@gmail.com)) with the flag's location.

ALA Unit 305 is pleased to announce that two \$250 scholarships were awarded to two of our junior members: **Andrea Montalbano**, who will be attending Central Michigan State University, and **Miranda Mills**, who will be attending California Polytechnic Institute. We plan to continue such fund-raising for next year. The program is open to Unit/Post members and their descendants who will be freshmen in Fall, 2013.

We are re-instituting our care package program for active military personnel in Afghanistan. **Ursula McConnell** is heading up that effort. We are collecting AA and AAA batteries; medium and large, round-neck white T-shirts; socks; power bars (20g+ protein) and beef jerky. We will be assembling boxes for shipment in early September. I will email out the date of that effort.

I plan on holding an open Executive Committee meeting to determine our Unit's plans of action for the coming year. Again, watch your email box for a place, date and time. I welcome input from anyone interested.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will be doing "Italian night". **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the dishes presented.

Have a Safe and Happy Labor Day Weekend! – **Dayna Salter**



## AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Mon.	Sept. 3	Labor Day	
Tues	Sept. 4	Coushatta Casino Trip	First Class Tours Bus Departs @8:00 AM
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
Sat.	Sept.22	National Night Out	North Shore Park @ 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Mon.	Oct. 15	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thurs.	Oct. 18	Oktoberfest Picnic	Shadowbend Park Pavilion @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Oct. 19	Set-Up Day for Rummage Sale	Robinson Road Community Ctr. @ 8:00 AM
Sat.	Oct. 20	District Convention	Post 615, New Caney
Sat.	Oct. 20	Fall Rummage Sale	Robinson Road Community Ctr. @ 7:00 AM
Sat.	Oct. 27	Navy Day	
Wed.	Oct. 31	Halloween	Trick or Treat!
Tues.	Nov. 6	National Election Day	Vote! Vote! Vote!
Sat.	Nov. 10	Marine Corps Birthday	Semper Fi
Sun.	Nov. 11	Veterans Day	
Mon.	Nov. 12	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr, @ 7:00 PM
Thurs.	Nov 15	Membership Meetings (Turkey!)	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**

### POSITION, NAME, TELEPHONE NUMBER & E-MAIL ADDRESS

<b>COMMANDER:</b>	Pete Koch	(936) 273-3588	petekoch@comcast.net
<b>FIRST VICE CMDR:</b>	Emery Heuermann	(281) 362-8431	emeryheuermann@charter.net
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<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:</b>			
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CIRCULATION: Emery Heuermann

WEBMASTER: Emery Heuermann

[www.alpost305.org](http://www.alpost305.org) and [www.mypost.org](http://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.