

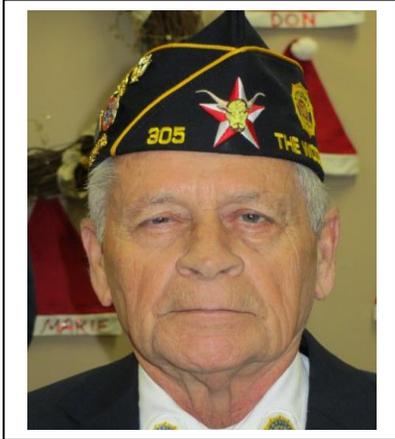


**AMERICAN LEGION POST 305**  
**“THE WOODLANDS POST”**  
**THE BUGLE**



April 2013 Volume 9, Issue 4

**COMMANDER’S CORNER**



**Commander Pete Koch**

**COMMANDER’S CORNER**

Dear Legionnaires,

At the March Post meeting, we initiated four new members (**John Postel, Brian Claypool, Charles Owens** and **Bob Bagley**). We performed the American Legion Initiation Ceremony and had the new members recite the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion. They were then introduced and welcomed into the American Legion family and the Post. Congratulations to all of them. They were given a Welcome Package along with a certificate indicating that they were now proud members of Post 305.

I have asked **Brian Claypool** to get with **Win Salter** (former Post Historian) to assist him in creating the History Book and Scrapbook for the coming year,

and he has accepted. Win has been doing it for some time and has performed an excellent job, receiving an award for one of the best History Books. The position of Post Historian is a very important one for all of us. The office of Historian is of growing importance. Please help Brian in developing the books as Mickey and many of you did for **Win Salter**.

I have also asked **Emery Heuermann** (First Vice Commander) to chair the Nominating Committee for next year’s slate of officers to run the Post. When he comes around asking you to stand for election, give him a thoughtful answer. We really need to have some fresh faces in these positions who will be as dedicated to the running of the Post as the present officers are. Most of our present officers have served for several years in various positions and would welcome the opportunity to take a break. The Nominating Committee will reveal its nominees at the April Post meeting. The floor will be open for additional nominees before voting for the slate at our May Post meeting. The new officers will be installed at our June Post meeting and will begin their tour of duty in July.

Although we had six new members sign up so far in the 2012 – 2013 year, membership is always an issue, and we need those renewals returned to the Post as

soon as possible. It will not be long until the 2012-2013 membership year has ended, and we will begin 2013-2014. We would hate to see the continuous years of service broken for any of our veterans. The programs that we support, including Boy’s State, Scholar-ships, Oratorical Contest and others, go a long way despite the little (\$5.00 annually) the Post gets to keep. Thus, we need your support as dues and donations to continue these programs which rely on such incoming funds.

As I announced last month, I am adjusting our meeting schedule to afford time for a speaker or presenter at each meeting. Such invited guests will deal with various subjects – some Legion-oriented, some educational, some patriotic, some entertaining. In general, such portion of our meeting will be joint with the Auxiliary Unit, so the timing must be flexible enough to allow both groups to accomplish their business matters, followed by the speaker then the social and pot-luck period. This generic schedule becomes:

- Set Up Rooms --- 6:30 to 7:00
- Business Mtgs. – 7:00 to 8:15
- Pot-luck Setup -- 8:00 to 8:15
- Speaker ----- 8:15 to 8:45
- Social/Pot-luck -- 8:45 to 9:30
- Cleanup ----- 9:30 to 10:00

Our “Birdies for Charity” fundraiser was completed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. **Jim Bolin** (Sergeant-at-Arms) distributed forms on which

to record our guesses of the number of birdies which will be made during the course of the Shell Houston Open Golf Tournament. Historically, there will be about 40 people who will guess the correct number of birdies. All 40 will receive a prize and a drawing of those 40 people will determine the grand prize winner with perhaps a trip to some exotic place. All \$1,800 donated to the fund by the Post and Auxiliary as guesses will be returned to those units.

Service Officer **Dayton Denton** has been working the Boys State Committee and has interviewed several students from the four local high schools: The Woodlands High School, College Park High School, John Cooper High School and Oak Ridge High School. With the help of the schools and the Post, we will have at least 10 students to send to Boys State in Austin this year. I attended one of the interviews, and it helped me to re-establish faith in our youth. The student that I saw interviewed was dedicated in his love for America. This program is one of the best the American Legion has for the future of this great country.

The semi-annual Rummage Sale is held in April and October each year. Normally, it is on the Friday and Saturday after the third Thursday meeting of those months. This Spring, it is on April 19<sup>th</sup> (set-up day) and 20<sup>th</sup> (sale day). Donations to the rummage sale are always needed and appreciated. We have volunteers with trucks and trailers to pick up any items you might wish to donate. Also, because we are an IRS-approved 501 (c) 19 organization, we can offer a donation receipt that can be claimed as a

deduction on your tax return as proof of a charitable donation. The rummage sale is held at the Robinson Road Community Center, located at the intersection of Robinson Road and Hanna Road. Set-up is from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Friday. Volunteers normally meet at the Community Center on Friday, and then travel to the storage building as teams to load everything up and bring it back to the Community Center. If you have a truck, please bring it. If not, don't worry about it... we need volunteers to help load and unload.

Our next meeting will be at 7:00 PM on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the South County Community Center on Lake Robbins Road in the Woodlands.

For God and Country,

*Pete Koch*

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March 21, 2013

Despite being war veterans, we were evicted from the large meeting room we usually enjoy and were packed into a small break-out room. Nevertheless, the Post meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the prescribed manner and a quorum was determined. Next, Finance Officer **Kim Biggerstaff** gave the Financial Report as follows: the General Fund totaled \$16,656.09 at the beginning of March, and the Allocated and Money Market Funds had \$22,378.15, for a total bankroll of \$39,034.24.

Next, First Vice Commander **Emery Heuermann** reported that we have renewed or enlisted 308 members, including 272 renewals, one new member and 35 PUFL's, or 92% of our 333 Goal.

**Mickey Fussell**, Second Vice Commander, reported on his trip to Coushatta Casino Resort on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Only one Post member went: Mickey, who fared well. On the first hand of a game, he placed a bet for himself and a neighbor, and won big. But 2/3 of the winnings belonged to his friend, but Mickey had enough winnings to last him the rest of the day. Next trip is via First Class Tours bus on May 7<sup>th</sup> departing at 8:00 AM.

Mickey also reminded the membership that the Friday after the next meeting is set-up day for the Post Rummage Sale. If you can help on Friday or Saturday come early on Friday. The work of set-up begins at 7:00 AM, but help organizing the sales room is needed at about 8:30 AM and into the afternoon. Saturday is sales day and in the late PM it's return of unsold goods to storage.

**Dayton Denton**, Service Officer, noted that the method of payment of mileage to the VA Hospital will be by direct deposit, but you will still need to fill out a voucher and turn it in, like always. Dayton then noted that he is part way through interviewing candidates for our Boys State selectees for this year. Right now, we have enough money for nine boys, but there will be a few more before the plea for sponsors ends. He thanked Post members who are helping him conduct interviews.

The Commander asked District Commander **Everett Ison** for comments regarding the District. Everett noted that District 7 is doing well and is at second place in the membership contest. The new District Commander **Ed Jarvis** was present and was introduced by Everett.

**Jim Bolin** reported on the Birdies-for-Charity fund raiser. The updated results are the Post has turned in donations of \$1,000 and the Auxiliary has turned in donations of \$800. These sums will be returned to the respective organizations once the money is collected by the Houston Golf Association.

The Commander then Inducted four new members into the Post. They were **John Postel, Brian Claypool, Charles Owen** and **Bob Bagley**.



Under “**For the Good of the Legion**”, various members commented: (1) The Department of Texas training session will be conducted on June 22 in Beaumont at Post 33 at 9:00 AM. Anyone interested should sign up on the Internet, but first complete the Legion’s Extension Institute course if you have not done so. (2) The Executive Committee Is accepting recommendations for “Legionnaire-of-the-Year. Each plug must be supported by a short paragraph describing why the member named should be awarded such honor. (3) The District 7 Convention will take place on April 20 at Post 84 in Madisonville, starting at 9:30 AM. The Division 2 Convention will be held at Post 618, Willis, on May 17 to 19.

There being no further business to come before the membership, the meeting was closed in due order at 8:30 PM.



**VETERANS ADVOCATE**

**PERSIAN GULF VETERANS GAIN HEALTH BENEFITS**

Veterans of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, may be eligible for five years of medical care. The Department of Veterans Affairs is trying to reach out to eligible veterans to let them know they may be entitled to complete health care coverage for five years post service period.

**TARGET YOUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WHILE IN RECESS**

Members of Congress left Washington to begin a two-week spring recess. Before leaving for home districts, both Houses passed a Continuing Resolution which will fund the government until the end of September. It funds the VA at the Administration’s recommended levels for FY2013, which includes a \$2 billion increase in Advance Appropriations for medical care accounts. Snap to and visit your representatives while they are at home in their district and State offices. Tell them you expect them to stand up for a strong military and for those who once wore the uniform.

**KOREAN WAR POW TO BE AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR**

Army Chaplain **Captain Emil J. Kapaun** will be posthumously presented with the Medal of Honor on April 11, 2013 for

repeatedly risking his own life to recover wounded men during the Battle of Unsan in North Korea, November 1-2, 1950, and afterwards as a POW, by sneaking around the POW camp after dark, foraging for food, caring for the sick and encouraging his fellow prisoners to sustain their faith and humanity. The Chaplain died in captivity on May 23, 1951. His remains have still not been recovered.

**CHECK OUT THE NEW WWII INTERACTIVE WEBSITE**

The American Battle Monuments Commission has launched an interactive history website of WWII timelines and maps showing the D-Day events of the Normandy Campaign and the Battle of Pointe du Hoc. Whether you were there or not, see what ABMC adds to your knowledge of that invasion.

Later this year, the Commission will unveil an interactive timeline and maps of WWI. ABMC oversees 24 cemeteries and 25 monuments, memorials and markers overseas.

**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

## GOOD RETIRING ADVICE

Tires are the only part of your car that actually touches the road - at least, if you're doing it right. Tires matter most when it comes to safety. Before you replace yours consider the following:

1. **Not all tire manufacturers are the same.** Out of 1,000 possible points, "Michelin ranks highest in three of the four groups: luxury (777), passenger car (726) and truck/utility (740). Pirelli ranks highest in the performance/sport group with an index score of 788." Look for the best deals these two manufacturers have to offer in their highest-rated specialties. There's no guarantee you'll be as pleased. Consider you may be able to get a better deal (including coupons) with your local tire dealer. You can always get conflicting opinions on the Internet. But, if you've had good experience with one brand, consider sticking with it.

2. **Check for recalls.** The National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration has an interactive recall page at -----

[www.odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recalls/recallsearch.cfm](http://www.odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recalls/recallsearch.cfm).

You can click "Tires" and search by brand name. The site is updated every night. If you have recalled tires, contact the manufacturer directly.

3. **Make sure you really need new tires.** How can you tell? Perform the penny test: place a penny between the treads, with Lincoln's head facing down. If you can still see the top of his head, it's time for new tires. Also, look for cracks and punctures. Finally, if your tires are old, you should replace them, because rubber breaks down over time. Check the manufacturer's recommendations on your specific tires.

4. **Buy the right tire.** Your owner's manual has the specs for your vehicle. Want to know what all those letters and numbers mean on the sidewalls of your tires? The NHTSA has this handy Tire Rating Lookup that explains it all and offers a search tool for more than 2,400 lines of tires Go to:

[www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Shoppers/Tires/Tires+Rating](http://www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Shoppers/Tires/Tires+Rating)

5. **Buy the right tires at the right price.** Before deciding where to buy get an idea of the right tires for your needs and a baseline price so you know if you are being quoted a good price locally or online. A couple of places place to get such information is <http://discounttires.com> and <http://www.tirerack.com>. Then check out the websites of your local dealers to compare prices. However, keep in mind that those prices might not be locked in. Calling and speaking to a salesman could disclose information on a sale that starts in a few days, or a coupon you might have missed. Also, local managers have the authority to cut deals.

6. **Don't buy used tires.** There's no way to tell if used tires were in good shape or bad in their previous life. Read what Consumer Reports has to say about their safety. While you may get enough miles out of them to actually save some money, it's a lottery-like gamble. And you could be risking your life.

Credit: **Money Talks News**; Michael Koretzky article.

## EVENT BULLETIN BOARD

### WHAT ~ WHEN ~ WHERE

**Saturday, April 20; Spring Rummage Sale:** With the assembly of treasures and set-up of the sales room on Friday, April 19, our semi-annual Rummage Sale takes place at the usual location – Robinson Road Community Center – on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We are requesting helpers of the Post to report at 7:00 AM to transport the goods from storage and others to arrive by 8:30 to unload and start set-up of the sales room. Once done, the staff will help in selling on both days and, late Saturday, return leftovers to storage. Free donuts, coffee, sodas, lunch and other snacks will be at hand.

**Saturday, April 20; District 7 Convention:** If you helped with setting up for the Rummage Sale, you can avoid the hassle of sale day by heading for Post 84 in Madisonville to take in the District 7 Convention. In reality, the Post and the Auxiliary will have selected our delegates and plan how we will meet the District's Travelling Trophy competition, donating powered beverages to Fisher House.

**Thursday, May 16; Election of Officers for 2013-2014:** Prior to the May Membership Meeting, all Post members will receive copies of the adopted slate of candidates. There is no absentee voting, so to cast your vote be present at this important assembly! Remember, elections have consequences!

**Friday, May 17-Sunday May 19: Second Division Convention:** The Second Division is the next highest Headquarters in the chain of command within the Department of Texas. This convention is the only meeting the Division holds each year, and a main purpose is the electing of a Commander for the next year. That Commander will have the job of managing eight districts within the Second Division.

# AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



**Dayna Salter, President**

Our March meeting included a visit from **Leigh-Anne Stewart**, the current District 7 Vice President and the next President. We all appreciated her visit and wished her well for the next two years as she leads District 7.

**Stephanie Marshall** reported that we have finished the interviews and chosen five girls from three area high schools to attend Girls State in June on behalf of Unit 305, The Woodlands. Two of the high schools donated the money for the two additional girls. Stephanie is excited about the caliber and enthusiasm of the girls. Our thanks go to her and co-interviewers **Vergie Fussell** and **Rosalie Fryer**.

**Rosalie Fryer** reports that our first fundraiser of the year, "**Birdies for Charity**" was successful with just over \$800 raised for our Unit.

The next fundraisers are the Rummage Sale on April 20<sup>th</sup> and a table at the VFW craft show on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Please save those dates and start planning your baking and other crafts. Thanks to the many of you who have volunteered to help out, and we will make final plans at the April meeting.

The slate of Unit 305 candidates for 2013-14 will be announced at the April meeting. The election will take place at the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting with installation in June. Where has the year gone? **Rosalie Fryer, Nan Claypool** and **Vergie Fussell** are on the Nominations Committee. If you are interested in becoming an officer, please let Rosalie know. Her number is listed below.

I would like to remind members who have not sent me their hours, to please go ahead and send them in. Call or email me with any questions. I will be compiling those hours and writing the narratives describing our activities during April.

One of our strengths is the work we do with Children and Youth. **Joan Sparks** arranged for book donations to two area schools. She will also be collecting Americanism essays written by local school children to be sent up to the Department for further judging. She has asked for help with the local judging and I'll be sending out an email with the date and time. She promises pizza and refreshments, so stay tuned.

For the District 7 Travelling Trophy competition, we are asked to bring powered beverages for Fisher House. Please bring your contributions to the April meeting.

My thanks go to **Gene Watz**, who has agreed to be a publicity rep for the Unit and liaison to the Post for any PR activities.

Our April meeting is scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Pot-luck will be Taco Salad and all the fixings. **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the fixings. The Auxiliary will be accepting donations to offset the cost of the meat. I hope to see you there.

**Happy Springtime,**

**Dayna Salter**



## **AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION**

**PRESIDENT:** Dayna Salter; Tel: (281) 229-1365; E-mail: [dayna.j.salter@exxonmobil.com](mailto:dayna.j.salter@exxonmobil.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Geri Mulvihill; Tel: (832) 620-6265; E-mail: [geri.mulvihill@yahoo.com](mailto:geri.mulvihill@yahoo.com)

**SECRETARY:** Sandie Holzinger; Tel: (281) 364-8590; E-mail: [zing1991@yahoo.com](mailto:zing1991@yahoo.com)

**TREASURER:** Ursula McConnell; Tel: (713) 822-6139; E-mail: [ursjmccconnell@gmail.com](mailto:ursjmccconnell@gmail.com)

**HISTORIAN:** Stephanie Marshall; Tel: (832) 637-2909; E-mail: [edaymemories@hotmail.com](mailto:edaymemories@hotmail.com)

**CHAPLAIN:** Mary Lee Mulvihill; Tel: (281) 353-5574; E-mail: [mulvihill1954@yahoo.com](mailto:mulvihill1954@yahoo.com)

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Rosalie Fryer; Tel: (936) 520-8895; E-mail: [rcfryer@charter.net](mailto:rcfryer@charter.net)

**SGT-AT-ARMS:** Annie Smith; Tel: (281) 367-4714 E-mail: [c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com](mailto:c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com)

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:**

Mary Bolin; Tel: (281) 251-2352; Email: [jpb20006@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jpb20006@sbcglobal.net)

Liz Heuermann; Tel: (281) 362-8431; Email: [lizheuermann@peoplepc.com](mailto:lizheuermann@peoplepc.com)

Jenny Le; Tel: (281) 323-4530 Email: [jmlchirp@yahoo.com](mailto:jmlchirp@yahoo.com)

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Sat.	Apr. 6	Army Day	
Mon.	Apr. 15	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Apr. 18	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Apr. 19	Set-up for Rummage Sale	Robinson Road C. C. @ 8:00 AM
Sat.	Apr. 20	Post Rummage Sale	Robinson Road C. C. @ 7:00 AM
Sat.	Apr. 20	District 7 Convention	Post 84, Madisonville, TX @ 9:30 AM
Wed.	May 1	Loyalty Day	
Wed.	May 8	Victory over Europe (VE-day 1945)	
Mon.	May 13	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	May 16	Membership Meetings (Election of Officers for 2013-2014)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	May 17 to	Division 2 Convention	Post 618, Willis @ 9:30 AM
	Sun. May 19		
Sat.	May 18	Armed Forces Day	
Mon.	May 27	Memorial Day (Observed)	Houston National Cemetery (Color Guard)
Thur.	June 6	D-Day (1944)	
Fri.	June 14	Flag Day	
Mon.	June 17	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	June 20	Flag Disposal Ceremony	South County Community Ctr. @ 6:30 PM
Thur.	June 20	Membership Meetings (Installation of Officers)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Tues.	June 25	Korean War Began (1950)	
Thur.	July 4	Independence Day	Fourth-of-July Parade. Assemble at the Methodome Parking Lot, The Woodlands

## **POST OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

<u>POSITION, NAME &amp; TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
<b>COMMANDER:</b> Pete Koch (936) 273-3588	<a href="mailto:petekoch76@gmail.com">petekoch76@gmail.com</a>
<b>FIRST VICE CMDR:</b> Emery Heuermann (281) 362-8431	<a href="mailto:emeryheuermann@charter.net">emeryheuermann@charter.net</a>
<b>SECOND VICE CMDR:</b> Mickey Fussell (281) 367-7115	<a href="mailto:v.h.fussells@gmail.com">v.h.fussells@gmail.com</a>
<b>ADJUTANT:</b> Pickens Jones (281) 367-7631	<a href="mailto:pickensjones@usa.net">pickensjones@usa.net</a>
<b>FINANCE OFFICER:</b> Kimberly Biggerstaff (281) 296-9344	<a href="mailto:kimgator5747@sbcglobal.net">kimgator5747@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>SERVICE OFFICER:</b> Dayton Denton (832) 928-6054	<a href="mailto:whselfstorage1@yahoo.com">whselfstorage1@yahoo.com</a>
<b>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:</b> Jim Bolin (281) 251-2352	<a href="mailto:jpb20006@sbcglobal.net">jpb20006@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS:</b> Robert Earl Jones (281) 651-7083	<a href="mailto:ejones2100@aol.com">ejones2100@aol.com</a>
<b>CHAPLAIN:</b> Jerry Mulvihill (281) 353-5574	<a href="mailto:mulvihill1954@yahoo.com">mulvihill1954@yahoo.com</a>
<b>ASS'T CHAPLAIN:</b> Rudy Charest (281) 363-9710	<a href="mailto:rrqc26@aol.com">rrqc26@aol.com</a>
<b>JUDGE ADVOCATE:</b> Everett Ison (281) 298-9524	<a href="mailto:eison01@comcast.net">eison01@comcast.net</a>
<b>HISTORIAN:</b> (open)	
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:</b>	
Steve O'Driscoll (281) 367-2711	<a href="mailto:ssoddriscoll@sbcglobal.net">ssoddriscoll@sbcglobal.net</a>
Victoria Glover (832) 813-9415	<a href="mailto:goldvicgoddess@gmail.com">goldvicgoddess@gmail.com</a>