



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305
“THE WOODLANDS POST”
THE BUGLE



May 2013

Volume 9 Issue 5

COMMANDER’S CORNER



Commander Pete Koch

COMMANDER’S CORNER

N.B. - By the Constitution and By-laws, we are required to notify all members of the coming election of new officers for the 2013-2014 year at the Membership Meeting on May 16th. This newsletter serves as your notification.

Nominations were accepted from the floor prior to the election in the case of anyone else who would like to run for office. The actual election will be held at the May Post meeting. A floor-nominated person must be present or a letter noting acceptance of the nomination. Any member must be present to vote.

The Spring District 7 Convention was held in Madisonville, Texas, at Post 84, and the turnout was

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR OFFICERSHIP 2013-2014

- Commander-----Pete Koch *
- First Vice Commander-----Emery Heuermann *
- Second Vice Commander-----Mickey Fussell *
- Finance Officer-----Kim Biggerstaff *
- Sergeant-At-Arms-----Jim Bolin *
- Adjutant-----Pickens Jones *
- Historian-----Win Salter
- Judge Advocate-----Everett Ison *
- Service Officer-----Dayton Denton *
- Chaplain-----Victoria Glover

Executive Committee Members-at-Large:

Harlan Thornhill

Carl Smith

[Assistant Chaplain and Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms are to be appointed by the elected Commander]

***(Incumbent)**

great. They elected new officers and **Ed Jarvis** took over as the new District Commander, relieving **Everett Ison**. On the 17th through the 19th of May, the Willis Texas Post will host the Second Division Convention.

Members of the Post have been trying to contact anyone on the rolls of the Post who have not renewed their membership for 2013-2014. Anyone who has not been contacted should either contact me at 936-524-0248 and let me know they don't want to renew, or they should send their check for \$31 to American Legion Post 305, P.O. Box 9336, The Woodlands, TX 77387.

Last month, we initiated five new members into our Post and had

17 transferees also change their Posts to be with us. Each of these new and/or transferred members are new to the Post, and we are looking for one of the older Post members to adopt one each in accordance to the sponsor program and assure that they attend our meetings and get involved in the operation of this Post. If we do not address this, we will lose most of them from attendance of our meetings. As of the last Post meeting, we now have a time period where we will be having speakers and/or trainers to come in and address the group to keep us up-to-date on the latest matters that affect all veterans. At the April Post meeting, Ms. Becky Feaster of the Daughters of the American Revolution spoke concerning the Library of Congress Program

where they are interviewing any and all veterans concerning their years of service. They will film the interview and a copy of the interview will be entered into the record section of the Library. A copy of the interview will also be given to the individual. Please contact Ms. Feaster at 281-466-2715 if you are interested. The speaker for the Post meeting in May will be announced within the next few weeks.

Memorial Day is on May 27th th1s year. We will be providing a Color Guard for the Parade of Colors at the Houston National Cemetery, and the Auxiliary will be laying a wreath at this event. We also have several presentations to give at various assisted-living homes and hospices around the area.

For God and Country

Pete Koch

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

April 18, 2013

The Post Membership Meeting was convened at 7:00 PM in the prescribed manner and a quorum was determined. Minutes of last month's meeting were distributed, read and approved by motion and vote. **Finance Officer Kim Biggerstaff** had handed out her monthly report and a budget update. The General Fund totaled \$15,915.99 at the beginning of April and the Allocated and Money Market funds held \$22,879.06, for a total bankroll of \$38,795.05. One obsolete entry under "Accrued Expenses" was questioned and resolved.

First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann gave his membership dues status report. There are now 311 paid-up members; 93.4% of our goal of 333. **Second Vice Commander Mickey Fussell**,

reminded us that the Rummage Sale was on the next two days. He also noted that the next trip to Coushatta Casino Resort will take place on May 7th. Make reservations a week ahead to insure a seat on the First Class Tours bus.

Sergeant-at-Arms, Jim Bolin, reported that the winning number for the Birdies-for-Charity was 1615 and only five people had that number to compete by draw for the grand prize. None of the winners were from the Post. Jim went on to comment that the Color Guard was getting more requests for an appearance and that it needs additional members to cover such events. (Refer to page 3 for more on this need.)

Service Officer Dayton Denton announced that free legal assistance is available to Legion members by a schedule which he has. If interested, check with Dayton for exact time and place to meet with one of the attorneys. Then, Dayton reported that we have enough financial support to send 12 boys to Boys State, and he thanked those in attendance who supported the sponsorship of eight more boys than our budget had afforded. Then he introduced Post member **Steve McKinsey**, who is starting a program of taking donated small items to the VA Hospital (See more about this under Veterans Advocate on page 3.) The Commander asked District Commander **Everett Ison** for a report, but he had none

Under **New Business**, the Commander reminded us that the Traveling Trophy will be awarded at this District 7 Convention based on the pounds of coffee and coffee-related goods turned in by each Post. He also reminded us of several future functions during the busy month of May, including

JROTC awards and Memorial Day related events. These are defined under The Bulletin Board and coming events.

Chairman of the Nominating Committee **Emery Heuermann** then enlisted those present as a "committee-of-the-whole" to name the nominees for officership for the coming year. The resulting slate is under the masthead and the election, by those present, is at the May meeting. Be there and VOTE!

There being no further business to come before the membership, the meeting was closed in due order at 8:00 PM.

The Auxiliary then joined the Post to listen to Becky Feaster of the Daughters of the American Revolution speak about a program of living history interviews with veterans which will be video-taped and preserved in the Library of Congress for future generations.

"MAY MATCH MADNESS": A POST FUND-RAISING DRIVE

A small group of Post regulars has committed to match any undesignated donation to the Post, made during the month of May, with an equal donation to both the Post and to the Auxiliary! That's a 2-for-1 match, benefitting both organizations. For a donation to qualify for matching, it must be received by the close of Friday, May 31, and be directed to the "MMM Drive". This is a chance to make your two-cents become six. Mail your donations to the Post address; attention "Finance Officer", or give it to **Kim Biggerstaff** at the May meeting or at another time.

COLOR GUARD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Post's four-member Color Guard is receiving more and more requests for an appearance and performance at various patriotic events throughout the County. The current Color Guard members need to be backed up by additional capable members and alternates to be able to respond to selected requests. Ideally, we need a stable of eight Color Guard members to be ready to field a four-person rank, allowing for absences, vacations, illness and conflicts. Minor training



Above: left to right: Biggerstaff, E. Jones, P. Jones and Bolin. Below: Bannon, E. Jones, P. Jones and Bolin.



and practice are required, as will be the basic uniform. There are two flag bearers and two flankers with light, parade rifles. So, you able-bodied troops, brush up on your close-order drill and the manual of arms, then volunteer your services to **Jim Bolin**. Flags, flag-carrying belts, parade belts and long-guns are provided. Tryouts and rehearsals are in order. Compensation: The thrill of once again advancing the colors in public



VETERANS ADVOCATE

LEGION DUES RENEWAL THROUGH THE NEW ONLINE SYSTEM

You can save time, effort and postage if you take advantage of the new **Automatic Annual Renewal Program** to pay your dues. Post members can simply go to www.legion.org/renew and click on "Renew Now" to safely and conveniently pay their Post dues. Once you enter the information requested, you will set up an account for automatic annual renewal. Alternatively, you can do the same by 'phoning the toll-free American Legion customer service line at **1-(800)433-3318**. Having an account showing you are participating in the Program, the Legion will automatically process your renewal at the start of each new membership year, charging your dues to the credit or debit card you have selected. Such transaction will occur around July 15 of each year, and you will receive a confirmation by e-mail. Your e-mail address is part of the information given at set-up.

It will be necessary for you to maintain the info you provide. To do so, 'phone again **1-(800) 433-3318**, or send an e-mail to cs@legion.org, or go online to www.legion.org/membershipmanagement and use the "Change Address" option. Should the Post's dues rate change, the rate in effect at the time of renewal will be charged. You can cancel

participation in the Program at any time, but such order must be received by June 30 to be effective in that renewal cycle. Just submit your request by e-mail to cs@legion.org or in writing to:

The American Legion Customer Service

P. O. Box 1954

Indianapolis, IN 46206

Cancellation requests must include: member ID number, name, address, last four digits of the credit/debit card number used and a daytime 'phone number by which a rep can reach you, if needed. If you still have the transaction number that shows on the original confirmation, include that too.

NEW POST DRIVE TO AID HOSPITALIZED VETS

Post 305 is initiating a drive, under the direction of the Service Committee, whereby all Post and Auxiliary members are requested to make donations of small, personal-care items which will be delivered to the Michael E. DeBakey Medical Center (Houston VA Hospital) for the benefit of the wounded, injured and sick veterans there. Examples of such items are toothpaste and brushes, shampoo, deodorant, disposable razor packs, shave cream, lotion, combs and brushes, hard-cover and paperback books, recent magazines, DVD's, playing cards, ball caps, socks, lap robes, new/gently used clothing, hand-held games and batteries, phone cards and gift cards. **Committee Chairman Denton** has put **Steve McKinsey** in charge of this program. Steve is an Army veteran who has personally experienced VA hospital stays. He will make periodic deliveries to the hospital as donations accumulate. So, bring those new dentist freebies, those un-opened hotel/motel giveaways, those airline playing cards, etc. to any membership meeting

or get them to Dayton or Steve otherwise. If you prefer, a money donation is fine, and Steve will buy the things most needed.

DOD CANCELS ITS PROPOSED “DISTINGUISHED WARFARE MEDAL”

Perhaps many of you might wonder what “distinguished warfare” really is, but, rest easy, it will not be celebrated by a medal, which was to be ranked higher than the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. The proposed military decoration was to honor drone “pilots” and “cyberwarriors” – both important but rear echelon GI’s, generally well removed from enemy fire. **American Legion Commander Jim Koutz** protested the ranking and said it was wholly inappropriate to place such medal above those awarded for valor and courage under fire. **Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel** halted production of the medal on April 5th and ordered **Joint Chiefs Chairman General Dempsey** to review the ranking. Some other device will be substituted for the DWM to recognize the achievements of the small number of servicemen and women who have an especially direct and immediate impact on

combat operations while serving outside the theatre and off any battlefield.

THE VA SOCIAL WORKER

A question many Veterans should ask themselves is do you need to contact a VA Social Worker? You will find social workers in all program areas in VA medical centers who are ready to help you with almost any need. If you have questions or problems, the social worker will be able to help you or can refer you to the right person for help. Here are just some of the ways that VA social workers can help: (a) They can advise you on getting help from the VA or from community agencies, such as Meals-on-Wheels, so you can continue to live in your own home. (b) They can help in applying for benefits from the VA, Social Security and other government and community programs. Ask your VA social worker. (c) VA social workers develop and implement treatment approaches which address individual social problems and work with acute or chronic medical conditions, dying patients and bereaved families. (d) They are a voice for veterans and their families who are at risk of losing their homes. (e) They

can make sure your doctor and other VA staff on your treatment team know your decisions about end-of-life issues, generally called advance directives and living wills. This includes things like whether you want to be on life support systems or are an organ donor, and which family member or other person you have chosen to make decisions on your behalf when you are unable to make those decisions yourself. (f) They can help you arrange for respite care for your caregiver so she or he can have a break or go on vacation without worrying about who will be caring for you.

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

EVENT BULLETIN BOARD

WHAT ~ WHEN ~ WHERE

Tuesday, May 7; Coushatta Casino Resort Day-Trip: Another “Get-rich-quick” visit to the casino. If any Post or Unit members are up for this, make your bus reservation at First Class Tours a week in advance. That’s NOW! Call Mickey Fussell for more info. Bus departs from 310 FM1960 West at 8:00 AM.

Friday, May 18; Second Division Convention: This two-day affair will be held at Post 618 in Willis. The primary functions are to elect a Division Commander, one Delegate and one Alternate to the National Convention and to conduct whatever business may come before the Convention. The Division includes eight Districts.

Thursday, May 23; Visits To Conroe Shut-In Veterans: In view of Memorial Day, Post representatives will be visiting several Conroe assisted living, memory-care and hospice homes to honor the service of resident veterans. Among those are Heritage Oaks and Odyssey House of Bristol Hospice.

Monday, May 27; Houston National Cemetery: The Post Color Guard will troop the colors and the Auxiliary will lay a wreath as part of the ceremony memorializing the country’s war dead. All members are welcome to witness the event, but get there early or take advantage of the shuttle-bus service.

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



Dayna Salter, President

The proposed slate of officers for the 2013-2014 term of office was announced at our April meeting by the Nominations Committee of **Rosalie Fryer, Vergie Fussell** and **Nan Claypool**. The nominees are **Dayna Salter** (for her self-declared last year as President); **Vergie Fussell** for Vice President, **Sandie Holzinger** for Secretary, **Nan Claypool** for Treasurer, **Annie Smith** for Sergeant-at-Arms, **Jenny Le** for Chaplain, **Stephanie Marshall** for Historian, and **Mary Bolin, Veronica Maiolo** and **Liz Heurermann** as Members as Large.

Elections will be held during the May 16th meeting at the South County Community Center at 7:00

PM. Additional nominations can be made from the floor during this time.

Our fundraising season is off to a good start with the \$117 raised at our bake sale table at the Post Rummage Sale on April 20th. All donated baked goods were sold. Thanks to all the bakers in the Unit and to the many Unit volunteers who helped out during this important Post event.

The next fundraiser is a table at the VFW Craft Show on May 4th. I will send out an email reminding everyone of the Craft Show and how to deliver your crafts for sale to our table.

We have plans for a strong Poppy Distribution effort for Memorial Day weekend. We will be at The Woodlands and Panther Creek Post Offices on Friday, May 24th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Then, on Saturday, May 25th, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, we will be at the Cochran's Crossing Kroger's. Please contact **Rosalie Fryer** if you would like to help out. Her number is below.

Finally, we will be at the Houston National Cemetery on Memorial Day, Monday May 27th for the ceremony commemorating the

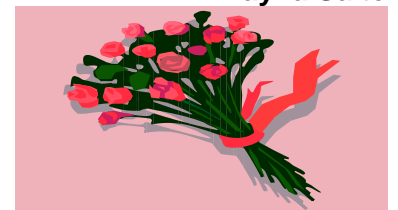
nation's war dead. The Unit will present a wreath during the ceremony. Please join us there.

Our membership has grown to 101 members, and we need seven more to reach our goal of 108 members for 2013. Please look around and see if there any friends, relatives or acquaintances who might want to join our Unit. I hope to see us reach this goal by June 1st.

I want to thank all our members once again. I wrote the narratives and compiled our hours last weekend for the annual reports to the Department. It is truly amazing all the important work that our small unit is able to accomplish. Let's make this coming year even more productive than the last.

Our May meeting is scheduled for the 16th. Don't forget this will be election night. The Potluck will be salads of all kinds. **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the various salads presented. I hope to see you there.

Happy Mother's Day,
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 Heurermann; Tel: (281) 362-8431; Email: lizheurermann@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>
Thur.	May 2	Kiwanis Breakfast Meeting	Woodlands Marriott Hotel @7:30 AM (Color Guard)
Tues.	May 7	Casino Day-Trip	Coushatta Casino Resort, Louisiana
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 (Elections)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Sat.	May 18 to Sun. May 19	Division 2 Convention	Post 618, Willis (Registration @ 8:00 AM)
Sat.	May 18	Armed Forces Day	
Thur.	May 23	Recognition of Veteran Residents	Bristol Hospice, Odyssey House and Heritage Oaks, Conroe
Fri.	May 24 & Sat. May 25	ALA To Distribute Poppies	At two Post Offices and Krogers at Cochrans Crossing 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Mon.	May 27	Memorial Day (Observed)	Houston National Cemetery (Color Guard)
Fri.	May 31	Present the Colors	Legends Sports Complex (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 (Installations)	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 & TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>			<u>E-MAIL</u>
COMMANDER:	Pete Koch	(936) 273-3588	petekoch76@gmail.com
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	jpb20006@sbcglobal.net
ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS:	Robert Earl Jones	(281) 651-7083	eiones2100@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	aoldvicaodress@gmail.com

OTHER INFORMATION:

THE BUGLE BRASS: EDITOR: Jim Bolin CIRCULATION: Emery Heuermann COPYBOY: Win Salter
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 Grogan's Mill Road, next to the library.

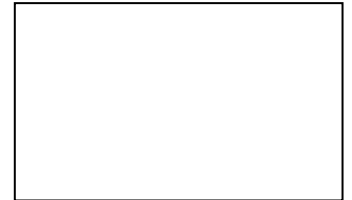
Second Vice Commander busy testing a sofa for quality and comfort.



POST 305's SEMI-ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALES

The twice-a-year rummage sales are important fund-raisers for the Post and the Auxiliary Unit. The Spring sale was just held and the financial benefit is still being added up, to be cited in the next issue. Members make donations of all sorts of serviceable goods which are stored, then brought out and displayed at the Robinson Road Community Center for sale to the general public at bargain prices. Each item is carefully checked for quality and condition by our crack team of volunteer testers/evaluators. Pictured here is a member of that team – the Second Vice Commander – shown testing a sofa for comfort. He ruled it “acceptable” and it was subsequently sold. We are always in need of added stock, so bring those white elephants and those outgrown articles to our storage facilities. Call Jim Bolin or Mickey Fussell for directions and for transport help, if needed. The Fall sale will get here before you know it!

AMERICAN LEGION POST 305
Post Office Box No. 9336
The Woodlands, TX 77387



Support Our Troops!