



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305
“THE WOODLANDS POST”
THE BUGLE



July 2013

Volume 9 Issue 7

COMMANDER’S CORNER



Commander Pete Koch

COMMANDER’S CORNER

Elections were held last month, the adopted slate was elected and the installations were conducted at the June meeting. We now have two new Members-At-Large on the Executive Committee, **Harlan Thornhill** and **Carl Smith**. If you have any problems, they are your direct representatives to keep the rest of the Executive Committee straight. We also have a new Chaplain, **Victoria Glover**, and Assistant Chaplain, **John Postel**. The new Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms is **Carl Smith**.

At 6:30 PM, before our meeting on June 20th, the Post conducted a “Dignified Disposal of Unserviceable Flags” ceremony. If you have any flags that need to be properly disposed of, bring them to a meeting for storage until the next ceremony.

During the June meeting, **District Commander Ed Jarvis** installed the new officers for the year 2013-2014. Right after the installation of the

Officers for the Post, the Auxiliary Unit conducted a similar ceremony where **Leigh-Anne Stewart, District 7 President**, installed the new Unit officers for the upcoming year. Congratulations to all.

There was a special meeting of the new Executive Committee held on June 24 to discuss the upcoming year’s work. Some of the subjects covered included membership, committee assignments, meeting attendance and public relations.

The 2nd Division Convention was held the weekend of May 18-19. A new Commander, **Bryan Coleman**, was elected, making **John Palasota Immediate Past Commander**.

Post 305 has been quite busy this month with flag ceremonies at seven different senior homes and hospices within the Montgomery County area. **John Nanninga** took the lead on these for Memorial Day and for Flag Day. Various members of the Post assisted him. The Color Guard, comprised of **Pickens Jones, Kimberly Biggerstaff, Jim Bolin and Pete Koch**, participated in the Parade of Colors at the Memorial Day ceremony at the Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery. **Mickey Fussell** participated with the VFW in representing the Post at the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in The Woodlands.

Mickey Fussell, Second Vice Commander, arranged for and enjoyed another day outing on Saturday, June 22, this time to visit the Veteran’s Museum of Texas in Huntsville. A small crowd of eight Post and Unit members made the journey and were

greatly impressed by the display of war memorabilia, documents and photos, covering US wars from the Revolution to Afghanistan.

The Department Convention will take place in Irving, Texas, from July 10 through July 14. If you want to attend, you need to let us know so we can pre-register you for the Convention. It is a good time to learn more about how the Legion works, so try to attend.

Thanks to consultant **Donna Wick Milstead** of <donnawickpr.com> and radio station News 92 FM (Intelligent Radio for Women), we now appear in all of the local newspapers any time we have a meeting or event worth a mention. She has volunteered to assist the Post with its public relations program. If you see the Post or Unit mentioned in any of the papers you read, please cut out the article and bring it to the next meeting for placement in our Scrapbook by the **Post Historian Win Salter**.

Per tradition, the Post will be entering a float in The Woodlands Fourth-of-July Parade. Under the direction of **Mickey Fussell**, with a lot of help from the Auxiliary, the float – a flat-bed trailer – has been improved and has new decorations. Two topless cars will royally carry the Commander and the President. Please come and join us in showing the citizens of The Woodlands how proud we are to be Americans. There is a lot of room for everyone on and off the float. Grandchildren will ride in the pickup pulling the float. Dress is optional, that is, Legion or Auxiliary clothing and caps, old uniforms or other patriotic garb are in order. We will be

passing out small American flags to the curbside spectators, as we do every year. **Mickey Fussell** has given 110% getting the float ready this year. Let us help the Post win a prize for the best or most patriotic float in the parade.

God Bless America
Pete Koch

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

June 20, 2013

Prior to the Meeting, the Post conducted a Flag Disposal Ceremony to honor those flags which have become faded and worn as they flew over the graves of our departed comrades and various public places. Officiating was **Ed Jarvis, District 7 Commander**, with non-participating members of the Post and Auxiliary were in attendance.



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 financial report and a budget update. The General Fund totaled \$14,640.98 at the beginning of May and the Allocated and Money Market funds held \$22,880.97, for a total

bankroll of \$37,521.95. The Commander then awarded **Kim** the plaque that attests to her selection as 2013 Legionnaire-of-the-Year.



Second Vice Commander Mickey Fussell reported on preparations for the Fourth-of-July, including decorating the float. He stated that the float would seat 19 folks, and he urged that all seats be filled. **Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Bolin** moved that the Post donate 10% of the Rummage Sale net profit to the Auxiliary. The motion was passed by voice vote. **First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann** moved that further business be postponed so that the newly elected officers could be installed. **District 7 Commander Ed Jarvis** performed the installation with the help of **District 7 Chaplain Joe Piazza** and **Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Sheila Schulte**. The installation of the Auxiliary Unit officers followed. The meeting was then closed and the membership enjoyed the pot-luck supper prepared by the Auxiliary

OUTING TO VETERANS MUSEUM OF TEXAS

On Saturday, June 22, eight intrepid adventurers traveled to the Veteran's Museum in Huntsville. The Museum proved to be outstanding. Each of the country's past several wars was covered in detail, by war and by service branch. There was also a wall of small arms used by the US as well as by our enemies. To take it all in and read all the information presented in the Museum would take days. We skipped the outdoor displays, which included a tank, a jet fighter and several wheeled vehicles, due to the hot weather. The two hours we spent passed quickly. On the way home we stopped at a Cracker Barrel to have lunch, so we

had a chance to visit there as well in our vehicles enroute. More outings are planned, so stay tuned.



L to R: Jim Bolin, Win Salter, Mary Bolin, Annie Smith, Larry, Carl Smith, Vergie and Mickey Fussell

PROGRESS ON CURRENT PROGRAMS

May Match Madness: The offer by a few anonymous members to doubly match any un-earmarked donation to the Post made in May produced a total of \$1,950 for the Post and \$975 for the Auxiliary. The opportunity could have produced more, but-----.

Boys State Program: The week-long Boys State opportunity saw 12 high school juniors sponsored by the Post. The schools represented were The Woodlands, Oak Ridge, John Cooper and College Park. **Service Officer Dayton Denton** reported that it was a great success.

Debakay Medical Center Care Drive: The drive to collect donations of personal-care items for the wounded or sick veterans at the VA hospital continues under the direction of **Dayton Denton** with **Steve McKinsey** as the Scrounger-Expediter. This drive got off to a great start but has slipped some from attention. So, you all are reminded to bring to any meeting those new items which you think will be welcome at the hospital.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT CREEPS AHEAD

The Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, requires everyone to purchase health insurance by January 1, 2014, or pay a penalty, but a new survey indicates that many of the uninsured still aren't sure about getting coverage. The website <InsuranceQuotes.com> released the survey, which initially included 1,001

adults, 134 of whom were uninsured. They interviewed an additional 152 uninsured adults to get better data. Among the uninsured, 64 percent said they had not yet decided to purchase insurance, 19 percent planned to acquire coverage by the deadline, and 10 percent planned to simply pay the penalty for not buying it. That penalty starts small, but gets bigger over time, the site says: In 2014 [the penalty] is the greater of \$95 or 1 percent of income for an adult. For children under 18, the penalty is half the adult amount. The penalty increases each year, up to the greater of \$695 or 2.5 per cent of household income for an adult in 2016. And, a family would pay a maximum of the greater of \$2,085 or 2.5 per cent of income then, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Here are some additional findings from the survey:

~ 61 per cent of the uninsured said they don't have health insurance because they can't afford it.

~ 58 per cent aren't sure if they qualify for tax credits that will lower their insurance costs under Obamacare.

~ 68 per cent of those with incomes under \$30,000 a year are not sure of their eligibility.

~ 61 percent of Americans believe Obamacare will increase the cost of health care.

Tax credits will be available to households with incomes between 100 percent and 400 percent of the federal poverty level, Healthcare.gov says. That is currently \$45,960 for an individual or \$94,200 for a family of four, Families USA says. You can estimate the size of your potential tax credit with the Kaiser Family Foundation subsidy calculator at <http://kff.org/interactive/subsidy-calculator/>. For an individual making \$30,000 a year, Kaiser says minimum coverage would cost about \$1,964 per year after a \$538 tax credit — working out to a monthly payment of about \$165. (Although it's worth noting that someone with minimum coverage would face higher out-of-pocket costs.)



VETERANS ADVOCATE

UPDATE ON DoD BENEFITS CUTS

The benefits that lured so many troops into military service may not remain intact after sequestration and other budget cuts, the Pentagon chief said on May 30th. The military is considering cutting retirement benefits and charging more for healthcare and prescription drugs, said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel while speaking to troops at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Hagel was on the island as a part of his tour of the Pacific region, and solicited questions from the audience of troops based there. The Department's most recent budget proposal to Congress included increasing co-pays for prescription medication and fees for Tricare, the military's health care system. "We are reviewing every component of our budget, and we have to look at personnel costs because they represent the biggest part," he said on Thursday. "We are looking at everything across the board, [such as] entitlement programs, in every way."

Cutting these benefits will have a crippling effect on maintaining a strong military force, according to one advocacy group. "The DoD only has two carrots to entice somebody to stay 20, 30, 40 years in uniform, and that is the immediate receipt of military retirement pay, and reasonably inexpensive health care for themselves and their spouse for the rest of their lives," says Joe Davis, national spokesman for the VFW. Troops deserve subsidized benefits due to the taxing tempo of military life, he says. Constant relocation hampers earning equity on a purchased home, and precludes

military spouses from developing a steady career. Service members reentering the workforce after decades in the military have less of an edge over younger civilians applying for the same jobs, he says. Raising these costs will take a toll on the military leadership at both the enlisted and officer levels. "The impact is not so much recruitment, but it will impact retention," he says. "What you could have in the end isn't the best qualified, it's the last person standing."

Personnel funds take up over 30 percent of the Pentagon budget - at almost \$142 billion - according to the most recent Pentagon budget. That portion should receive a higher priority, Hagel said, offering a line he has repeated since sequestration and the resulting furloughs first began: "You take care of your people." "We still have the best benefits that I'm aware of anywhere in the world," he said. "We have to do things like that, or we won't be able to sustain the programs." Hagel's comments come at a time when the Pentagon is still trying to meet budget cuts, and announced it would furlough civilian employees for 11 days starting in July as a part of the across-the-board cuts known as sequestration. The U.S. government coffers are strained to accommodate a growing number of veterans coming home from war zones who require medical assistance. [Source: U.S. News & World Report]

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

THESE ORDERS OF GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TOUCHED OFF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND LED TO OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY

In the decade following the end of the French and Indian War, the Crown set out to offset the cost of that war by levying a series of acts to extract monies from the American colonies (e.g. The Sugar Act, The Stamp Act, The Townshend Acts). Such taxation without representation at Parliament became fiercely resented, especially in the Massachusetts

Bay Colony. Over time, rebellious events occurred or were planned, such as the Boston Massacre (1770) and The Boston Tea Party (1773) and rebellion was preached by several prominent colonists (Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere, Reverend Jonas Clark, Dr. Joseph Warren). By 1775, steps toward opposing the British were in progress. War materiel had been concentrated in the towns of Concord and Worcester from local village arsenals, and farmers and their wives purchased and pilfered

flintlocks from British soldiers and storehouses, smuggling them out of Boston. Finally, General Gage decided to capture or destroy these munitions and quell any budding insurrection. His plan for April 19th was the most closely guarded secret in Boston, and the most loosely kept. The activity of assemblage of his troops from billets in private homes made the planned sortie obvious. Warnings of the coming of British regulars went forth, and Minutemen were waiting on Lexington Green and down the road in Concord.

Boston, April 18, 1775

*Lieu Coll Smith, 10th Regiment foot
Sir*

Having received Intelligence, that a Quantity of Ammunition, Provisions, Artillery, Tents and small Arms, having been collected at Concord, for the Avowed Purpose of raising and supporting a Rebellion against His Majesty, you will March with your Corps of Grenadiers and light Infantry, put under your Command, with the utmost expedition and secrecy to Concord, where you will seize and destroy all the Artillery, Ammunition, Provisions, Tents, Small Arms and Military Stores whatever. But you will take care that the Soldiers do not plunder the Inhabitants, or hurt private property.

You have a draught of Concord, on which is marked, the Houses, Barns,, &c. which contain the Military Stores. You will order a Trunion to be knocked off each Gun, but if its found impractical on any, they must be spiked, and the carriages destroyed. The Powder and flower, must be shook out of the Barrells into the River, the Tents burnt, Pork or Beef destroyed in the best way you can devise. And the Men may put Balls and lead in their pockets, throwing them by degrees into Ponds, Ditches, &c., but no Quantity together, so that they may be recovered afterwards.

If you meet with any Brass Artillery, you will order their Muzzles to be beat in so as to render them useless.

You will observe by the Draught that it will be necessary to secure the two Bridges as soon as possible, you will therefore order a party of the best Marchers, to go on with expedition for that purpose.

A small party on horseback is ordered out to stop all advice of your March getting to Concord before you, and a small number of Artillery to go out in Chaises to wait for you on the road, with Siege Hammers, Spikes, &c.

You will open your business, and return with the Troops, as soon as possible, which I must leave to your own Judgement and Discretion. I am,

Sir

*Your most obedient
Humble Servant
Tho Gage*

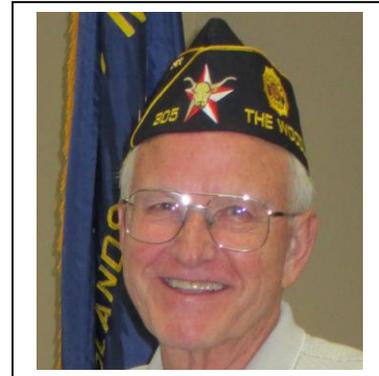
MEET YOUR OFFICERS

The next few issues of The Bugle will introduce the reader to the newly-elected officers of the Post, four at a time.



James Bolin (“Jim”) is our Sergeant-at-Arms, whose primary duty is to secure the meeting place and guard the door, and to post and retire the colors at the start and close of each meeting. He is also a member of the Color Guard and Editor of the newsletter. Jim served 23 years in the Army from 1956 to 1979 and has 15 years as a Legionnaire.

Hayne M. Fussell (“Mickey”) is our Second Vice Commander, whose primary duties include making Post participation and meeting attendance positive experiences by planning presentations and speakers and out-of-house events. Mickey served in the Air Force from 1959 through 1963 and has been a Legion member for 27 years.



Pickens Jones is our Adjutant, whose role is similar to that of a First Sergeant, which means he is the Post administrator. His primary duties include processing dues payments, maintaining the roster, preparing meeting minutes and handling correspondence. He is a member of the Color Guard. Pickens served three years in the Army National Guard and five years as a Naval Aviator. He has been a Legionnaire for 15 years.

Kimberly Biggerstaff (“Kim”) is the Post Finance Officer, whose primary duty is to receive and disburse Post funds. She is a member of the Color Guard and is the District 7 Sergeant-at-Arms. Kim also serves on two Department committees (Aerospace and Training) and is a graduate of The National American Legion College in Indianapolis. She served nine years in the Air Force from 1988 to 1998 and has been a Legionnaire for 16 years.



AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



Dayna Salter, President

The June 20th meeting saw the installation of the 2013-14 officers by incoming District 7 President **Leigh-Anne Stewart**. The new officers are listed in the box below. An Executive Committee Meeting will be planned for July to review duties and plans for the 2013-14 year. Mary Bolin has offered her home as the meeting place. Date and time still to be determined.

The most pressing upcoming event will be our Fourth-of-July Parade on Thursday, July 4th, beginning at the Methodist Church in The Woodlands. We will parade through the Market Square area and return to the Church parking lot. Our float has been refurbished with new décor thanks to Unit members **Vergie Fussell, Mary Bolin, Nan Claypool, Jenny Le**

and **Mary Lee Mulvihill**. Please join us beginning at 7:30 am.

The second most pressing item is our membership which still stands at 101 members, and we need seven more members to reach our 2013 goal of 108 members by July 10th. Please look around and beat the bushes for new members. We encourage active participants, but please remind potential members of the benefits of their dues to the ALA and the member benefits to them. Also, at this late date, we will waive our Unit portion and enroll 2013 members for \$21 instead of the usual \$27.

Congratulations go to our new Chaplain **Jenny Le**, who was married on June 29th to **Clay Hamann**. Our best wishes to the happy couple.

Girls State was held the week of June 17th and our delegates will all be at the July meeting to talk about their experiences. Please plan on attending. This is a great program for the girls as they prepare for college and careers. Unit 305 has always done well sponsoring the program.

As we go into the summer, we have no fund-raisers planned until the end of August, when we will have a table for crafts and information at the Holy Comforter BBQ. There will be more on that event at the July meeting.

The membership has voted to send \$500 to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund to help out the tornado victims in Texas and Oklahoma. We are trying to put those hard earned dollars to work right away to serve veterans and their families.

Also in July, we will be sending off packages to our military contacts in Afghanistan. We will discuss this further at the July meeting.

Our next meeting is on July 18th and the Post meeting potluck will have a "Lunar" theme in honor of the Moon Landing. **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the various "space-y" dishes to be presented. Moon Pies? I hope to see you there.

Happy Fourth – see you at the parade,
-Dayna Salter



2013-14 AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

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SECRETARY: Sandie Holzinger; Tel: (281) 364-8590; E-mail: zing1991@yahoo.com
TREASURER: Nan Claypool; Tel: (832) 447-5284; E-mail: nanclaypool@att.net
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SGT-AT-ARMS: Annie Smith; Tel: (281) 367-4714 E-mail: c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:
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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Thur.	July 4	Independence Day	Fourth-of-July Parade. Assemble at the Methodome Parking Lot, The Woodlands at 7:30 AM. Parade starts at 9:00 AM.
Wed.	July 10 to Sun. July 14	95 th Department Convention	Irving, Texas
Mon.	July 15	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	July 18	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Sat.	July 27	Korean War Armistice (1953)	
Sun.	July 28	World War I Began (1914)	
Thur.	Aug. 1	Air Force Day	
Mon.	Aug. 12	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Aug. 15	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Aug. 23 to Thur. Aug. 29	Legion National Convention	Crown Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Houston, Texas
Sat.	Aug. 25	American Legion Parade	Streets of Downtown Houston
Mon.	Sept. 2	VJ Day – Japan Surrenders (1945)	
Mon.	Sept. 2	Labor Day	
Wed.	Sept. 11	Patriot Day – Attack On US (2001)	
Mon.	Sept. 16	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Sept. 19	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Wed.	Sept. 25 to Sun. Sept. 29	Fall Department Executive Committee Meeting	Omni Austin Southpark Hotel, Austin, TX

POSITION, NAME & TELEPHONE NUMBER

COMMANDER:	Pete Koch	(936) 273-3588
FIRST VICE CMDR:	Emery Heuermann	(281) 362-8431
SECOND VICE CMDR:	Mickey Fussell	(281) 367-7115
ADJUTANT:	Pickens Jones	(281) 367-7631
FINANCE OFFICER:	Kimberly Biggerstaff	(281) 296-9344
SERVICE OFFICER:	Dayton Denton	(832) 928-6054
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:	Jim Bolin	(281) 251-2352
ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS:	Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714
CHAPLAIN:	Victoria Glover	(832) 813-9415
ASS'T CHAPLAIN:	John Postel	(281) 798-9029
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Everett Ison	(281) 298-9524
HISTORIAN:	Winfield Salter	(281) 370-1912
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:	Harlan Thornhill	(409) 273- 2287
	Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714

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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.

