



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



August 2013

**WELCOME NATIONAL CONVENTION!**

Volume 9 Issue 8



**COMMANDER’S CORNER**

We had a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade this year. **Mickey Fussell** and his troops and Auxiliary Unit 305 put in a lot of work to get the float entry in good shape. We didn't have the turnout of veterans that we expected from our membership, but, hopefully, next year there will be more. I hope you were able to watch it if you didn't participate in it. A special thanks to the following individuals --- **Alyssa Brady, Dave & Gail May** and **Julie Billingsley** --- for supplying the convertibles that your Commander (**Pete Koch**), the Auxiliary President (**Dayna Salter**) and recent Girls State grad **Kylee Gould** rode in.

Last year's membership goal was 333 members. We obtained 97% of our goal at 323 dues-paying members. Let us attempt to meet or surpass next year's goal, which will be announced at the next Post meeting. This recruiting year will run from July 1, 2013 to June 31,

2014. Let's get an early start. Send your membership in now while you are thinking about it. You can do it on-line now and it is as simple as can be.

I have established goals for the 2013-2014 year and they are as follows:

**GOAL ONE** - Goal One has two parts.

- (a) To continue the various programs which were in progress last year to virtual completion or until circumstances dictate discontinuance of a particular program. This requires an inventory of such programs and the individual or committee responsible for action. "Programs" exclude the routine duties of officers as defined by published guidelines.
- (b) To engage in succession planning by identifying a back-up member for each officer and chairperson, trained and capable to take over on short notice, if necessary.

**GOAL TWO**

To devise and conduct a better program of community outreach and public relations by which "The Woodlands American Legion Post 305" will become better recognized.

**GOAL THREE**

To review all aspects of the Post's monthly membership meetings and make changes which will

attract more members on a regular basis.

**GOAL FOUR**

To seek, find and implement social activities, daytrips to attractions and other outings which will draw greater interest and participation by Post members and their families.

It is going to take each and every one of us to accomplish these goals, but I am quite convinced that we can do it. For those of you that are not assigned to any committee or program and would like to assist the member in charge, please feel free to contact him or her and offer your assistance. There are many small tasks that need to be done that make up the whole of any program. I will be discussing this at future Post meetings and, with the help of the Executive Committee, laying out plans on how all members can get involved.

At the November meeting, all 12 of the student delegates we sent to Boy's State are invited to the Post meeting to be introduced and to tell us about their experiences. Try to be there to meet and honor these remarkable young adults.

We now have a new District 7 Commander with the elections that just took place. Let us all congratulate **Edward Jarvis** as the new District 7 Commander, with our **Everett Ison** as the Vice Commander, **Kimberly Biggerstaff** as the District Sergeant-at-

Arms, and I have accepted the position of District Adjutant.

The Post has donated funds to assist the victims of the explosion in West, Texas, and the tornado damages in Oklahoma

God Bless America

*Pete Koch*

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

July 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 financial report and a budget update. The General Fund totaled \$16,451.07 at the beginning of May and the Allocated and Money Market funds held \$22,8876.93, for a total bankroll of \$39,328.00. **Kim** expressed the thanks of the Post to all who contributed to the May Match Madness drive.

**First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann** noted that it was the beginning of a new year and no membership numbers were available yet. **Second Vice Commander Mickey Fussell** reported that he was disappointed that we were unable to fill up the chairs on the Fourth of July Parade float with Legion and Auxiliary members. We lost out to the Marine Corps League among "military" entrants, but will do better next year.



**Mickey** also reported that the storage facility of rummage sale stock was out of room for big items. Small bags of clothing and small boxes are OK, but save the big stuff until the Rummage Sale in the Spring.

**Mickey** was persuaded to revive the trips to Louisiana casinos, so he is inviting anyone who is interested to go with him on September 3<sup>rd</sup> (the first Tuesday in September) to Coushatta Casino Resort. Look in the Bulletin Board to get information how to join the bus trip to Coushatta with **Mickey**. He also reported that he will schedule a trip to the Battleship Texas in December. Keep that in mind and check the Bulletin Board to find the exact date.

**Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Bolin** and **Historian Win Salter** had no report. **Chaplain Victoria Glover** reported that her home suffered a fire and she was quite displaced by it. **Service Officer Dayton Denton** was absent, but he had noted at the Executive Committee Meeting that Boys State went well, except the program had admitted too many boys and some had to be sent home.

The membership voted to donate \$200 to **Jerry Beard**, District Commander of The Sons of the American Legion, whose house burned down while he was at the Department Convention. The membership also voted to spend \$230 to join the Chamber of Commerce to support one of the Commander's goals of improving community outreach and public relations.

The meeting was then closed in the customary manner and those present enjoyed the pot-luck supper prepared by the Auxiliary.

### THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION COMES TO TOWN

From Saturday, August 24, to Thursday, August 29, Houston will be flooded by members of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, plus a few hog-riders who are headed here en masse from Indianapolis. The weekend schedule is filled with various committee meetings and caucuses and a memorial service. The National Convention Parade kicks off on Sunday at 4:00 PM.

The site of these doings is the George R. Brown Convention Center, with the Auxiliary's Juniors meeting at the Hilton Americas Hotel. The Opening Session starts on Monday at 8:00 AM. Other highlights include several person-of-the-year luncheons, the Commander's Banquet on Tuesday and the States Dinner on Wednesday. Besides sit-down meals, the business goes on in general and breakout sessions, Monday through Thursday. The incoming National Officers will be installed Thursday morning and will meet as the new Executive Committee thereafter. Delegates and guests from Post 305 will be selected by the August 15<sup>th</sup> membership meeting.



### VETERANS ADVOCATE

### APPLYING FOR A SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ANNUITY PAYOUT

If you are the designated beneficiary of a deceased military

retiree's Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), complete and submit the following documents to begin your SBP annuity payout (NOTE: All forms can be completed online and downloaded at the websites given):

**Verification For Survivors Annuity (DD2656-7)** at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2656-7.pdf>. Section by section instructions are available at <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death/sbp.html>. If you have questions or need assistance completing this form, contact DFAS at 1-800-321-1080. Form DD2656-7 requires the following accompanying documentation as applicable for processing:

**Certificate of Death:** Required within 60 days of establishing the Annuity. Submit a legible copy of the original Certificate of Death (including cause and manner of death). DFAS is unable to return original documents.

**IRS Form W-4P:** Available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4p.pdf> to have taxes for U.S. citizens withheld from annuity payments; or

**IRS Form W-8BEN:** Available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw8ben.pdf> to have taxes for non-U.S. citizens withheld from annuity payments.

**FMS 2231 Fast Start Direct Deposit Form:** Available at <http://www.fms.treas.gov/eft/2231.pdf> to have money directly deposited to your bank account rather than a hard copy check being mailed.

**Direct Deposit Enrollment Form (SF 1199A):** Available at <http://fms.treas.gov/eft/SF-1199A-2012.pdf> if annuitant has no SSN assigned; or

**International Direct Deposit Enrollment Form (SF 1199-I):**

Available at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/of1199i.pdf> for an overseas financial institution.

Additional documentation may be needed, depending on the claimant:

**Citizenship Affidavit** – Include if the claimant does not live in the US and is anyone other than the member's child.

**Custodianship** - If the claimant is a minor this form must be signed by the parent/guardian.

**POA or Guardianship** – If someone else signs on behalf of the claimant supporting documentation is needed.

**Child Annuitant's School Certification (DD2788):** For minors or incapacitated annuitants only. Available at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2788.pdf>.

Mail or fax completed documents to: DFAS - U.S. Military Annuitant Pay, P.O. Box 7131, London, KY, 40742-7131 or Fax: 800-982-8459 [Source: <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death/sbp.html> Jul 2013 ++]

### **UPDATE ON APPLYING FOR BENEFITS UNDER A SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN**

If you have elected to cover your spouse or loved ones under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), you should be aware of a recent change to the process for application for benefits. Effective April 1, 2013, all applications for annuities under the SBP plan will require a photocopy submission of the annuitant's Social Security Card. If annuitant has no SSN assigned, include a note in your application package stating so and provide their ITIN number if one has been assigned. If your designated beneficiary does not

submit a Social Security Card photocopy with the application, the annuity will still be established and the annuitant will be allotted 90 days to submit the photocopy to DFAS. If it is not received after 90 days, the account will be suspended and no further payments will be made until their card's photocopy is received. It will apply to all annuities established after April 1, 2013, but will have no effect on annuitants in receipt of SBP payments prior to April 1, 2013. Military retirees should make the necessary preparations for their beneficiaries. Keep your files up to date so both you and your beneficiary can be prepared for unexpected events. For more guidelines on preparing beneficiaries for you death refer to <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter/benfyshknow.html>. [Source: DFAS Annuity Changes Article/ 24 Jun 2013 ++]

#### **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

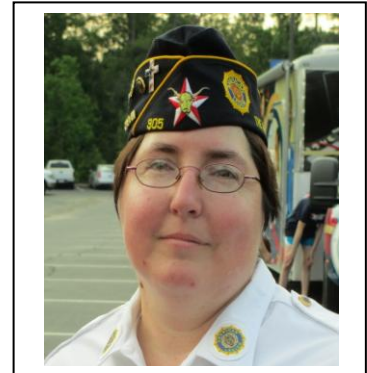




## MEET YOUR OFFICERS

The Bugle continues to introduce you to the newly-elected officers of the Post

**Victoria Glover (“Vickie”)** is our Chaplain, whose primary duties include representing the spiritual welfare of Post members and offering divine but non-sectarian services at Post meetings, dedications, funerals and public functions. Vickie served in the Navy from 1989 to 1991. She is a member of the Color Guard and has been a Legionnaire for two years.



**Harlan Thornhill (“Thorny”)** is one of two Executive Committeemen-At-Large, whose role is to augment the other officers per the Constitution, and act as an ombudsman for the benefit of the membership in any and all matters of concern to the Executive Committee. Thorny served in the Navy and the Air Force from 1951 through 1973 and has been a Legionnaire for 26 years.

**Peter Koch (“Pete”)** is our Commander, in his second term, whose duties include presiding at all meetings and to have general supervision over the business and affairs of the Post. He approves all orders directing the disbursement of funds and makes an annual year-end report to the membership covering the business of the Post. He selects what committees are needed to help him and appoints their chairpersons. He is also the District 7 Adjutant. Pete served for 22 years in the Navy from 1954 to 1976 and has been in the Legion for three years.



**Winfield Salter (“Win”)** is our Historian, whose primary duty is to create a two-volume set of History Books, wherein the events of the Post within the year are described and pictured, along with basic reference information about the Post’s location, its officers, membership, finances and meetings. Win served in the Marine Corps from 1946 through 1952 and has been a Legionnaire for 27 years.

# AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



**Dayna Salter, President**

The highlight of the July meeting was a panel discussion by two of our five Girls State attendees, **Kimberly Gladney and Kylee Gould**. The girls discussed their experiences and learnings from the program. We hope to have the remaining three girls at our August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.



Girls State attendee Kimberly Gladney, President Dayna Salter and Girls State attendee Kylee Gould

**Rosalie Fryer** and I also reported briefly on the Department convention in Irving which was held July 12-14. Our Unit was recognized with several certificates of achievement and merit, and was also honored to have sponsored the two 1<sup>st</sup> place Americanism essays for Grades 4 and 5. **Joan Sparks** will arrange a ceremony this fall for the two winning students.

An idea from the Department Convention to engage our Junior members will be discussed at our next meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Over a third of our membership is Junior members - children and grandchildren of senior members scattered across the US. One way to engage them in our Unit and the American Legion Auxiliary is through the ALA "Patch Program" which recognizes achievement for three different age levels in several dimensions including Community Service, National Security, Americanism, and VA&R. Completion of the Patch Program could be a plus on any college bound junior's resume.

An Executive Committee Meeting is planned for the evening of August 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00PM to 8:00PM to review duties and strategic plans for the 2013-14

year. It is open to all members who wish to attend. **Mary Bolin** has offered her home as the meeting place. Please contact me or **Mary Bolin** for directions. An agenda and directions will be emailed soon.

As we continue with 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** on August 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be more on that event at the August meeting and in subsequent emails.

Our next meeting is on August 15<sup>th</sup> and the post meeting potluck will have a general "what feels right" theme. **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the various dishes to be presented. I hope to see you there.

- **Dayna Salter**



Vice President Vergie Fussell and Girls State attendee Kimberly Gladney. Vergie had interviewed candidates at Kimberly's high school.

## 2013-14 AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

**PRESIDENT:** Dayna Salter; Tel: (281) 229-1365; E-mail: [dayna.salter@gmail.com](mailto:dayna.salter@gmail.com)  
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**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)  
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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)  
Veronica Maiolo Tel: (832) 228-4403; Email: [sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net)

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

| <u>DAY</u> | <u>DATE</u>   | <u>EVENT</u>                      | <u>LOCALE</u>  |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Mon.       | Aug. 5        | Special Exec. Committee Meeting   | South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM                |
| 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                |
| Sat.       | Aug. 24 to    | American Legion National          | Brown Convention Center & Hilton Americas            |
|            | Thur. Aug. 29 | Convention                        | Hotel, Houston                                       |
| Sun.       | Aug. 25       | National Convention Parade        | Houston CBD, Start – 4:00 PM                         |
| Mon.       | Sept. 2       | VJ Day – Japan Surrenders (1945)  |  |
| Mon.       | Sept. 2       | Labor Day                         |  |
| Tues.      | Sept. 3       | Daytrip To Louisiana Casino       | Coushatta Casino Resort via<br>First Class Tours Bus |
| 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   | Fall Department Executive         | Omni Austin Southpark Hotel, Austin                  |
|            | Sun. Sept. 29 | Committee Meeting                 |  |
| Mon.       | Oct. 14       | Executive Committee Meeting       | South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM                |
| Thur.      | Oct. 17       | Membership Meetings (Octoberfest) | South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM                |
| Fri.       | Oct. 18       | Fall Rummage Sale Set-Up Day      | Robinson Rd. Community Center                        |
| Sat.       | Oct. 19       | Fall Rummage Sale Day             | Robinson Rd. Community Center                        |
| Sat.       | Oct. 19       | District 7 Convention             | Post 615, East New Caney, Texas                      |

| <u>POSITION, NAME &amp; TELEPHONE NUMBER</u> |                             |                        | <u>E-MAIL</u>  |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>COMMANDER:</b>                            | <b>Pete Koch</b>            | <b>(936) 273-3588</b>  | <a href="mailto:petekoch76@gmail.com">petekoch76@gmail.com</a>                         |
| <b>FIRST VICE CMDR:</b>                      | <b>Emery Heuermann</b>      | <b>(281) 362-8431</b>  | <a href="mailto:emeryheuermann@charter.net">emeryheuermann@charter.net</a>             |
| <b>SECOND VICE CMDR:</b>                     | <b>Mickey Fussell</b>       | <b>(281) 367-7115</b>  | <a href="mailto:v.h.fussells@gmail.com">v.h.fussells@gmail.com</a>                     |
| <b>ADJUTANT:</b>                             | <b>Pickens Jones</b>        | <b>(281) 367-7631</b>  | <a href="mailto:pickensjones@usa.net">pickensjones@usa.net</a>                         |
| <b>FINANCE OFFICER:</b>                      | <b>Kimberly Biggerstaff</b> | <b>(281) 296-9344</b>  | <a href="mailto:kimgator5747@sbcglobal.net">kimgator5747@sbcglobal.net</a>             |
| <b>SERVICE OFFICER:</b>                      | <b>Dayton Denton</b>        | <b>(832) 928-6054</b>  | <a href="mailto:whselfstorage1@yahoo.com">whselfstorage1@yahoo.com</a>                 |
| <b>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:</b>                     | <b>Jim Bolin</b>            | <b>(281) 251-2352</b>  | <a href="mailto:ipb20006@sbcglobal.net">ipb20006@sbcglobal.net</a>                     |
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| <b>JUDGE ADVOCATE:</b>                       | <b>Everett Ison</b>         | <b>(281) 298-9524</b>  | <a href="mailto:eison01@comcast.net">eison01@comcast.net</a>                           |
| <b>HISTORIAN:</b>                            | <b>Winfield Salter</b>      | <b>(281) 370-1912</b>  | <a href="mailto:flintyeve@gmail.com">flintyeve@gmail.com</a>                           |
| <b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:</b> |                             |                        |  |
|  | <b>Harlan Thornhill</b>     | <b>(409) 273- 2287</b> | <a href="mailto:harlan@consolidated.net">harlan@consolidated.net</a>                   |
|  | <b>Carl Smith</b>           | <b>(281) 367-4714</b>  | <a href="mailto:c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com">c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com</a> |

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 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 Grogan's Mill Road, next to the library.

