



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305
“THE WOODLANDS POST”
THE BUGLE



September 2013

Volume 9 Issue 9



Pete Koch
COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Legionnaires,
 The month of August has been quite a busy month for our Post. By the time you read this, several events will have occurred, including the following:

~ The American Legion National Convention was held in Houston at the George R. Brown Civic Center. Vice-President Joseph Biden was the Guest Speaker along with others, including Rita Cosby, a journalist and author.

~ New Post Officers have been installed into their positions.

~ Several of us attended the Post Commander and Adjutant training course held in Killeen.

~ We have established that we will make the Post meetings more interesting by having guest speakers and training as time allows. Notifications will go out each month to advise the membership of such.

~ Last year's financials and records have been subjected to an internal audit which was read and approved by the Membership. Copies of the year-end statement and audit report are available for your review with the Post Adjutant.

~ The new budget for 2013 – 2014 has been presented and approved.

~ We have initiated a “Sponsorship” program where all new/transferred members will be given a “Welcome Package” and be assigned a sponsor to bring them up to date as to the workings of The American Legion and this Post.

~ Committee Chairpersons have been assigned for this year.

~ Post Goals and Committee Tasks have been established for this year.

~ We have commenced working various other Sub-Committees this year, such as those concerned with awards to:

~ Law-enforcement officer of the year,

~ Firefighter of the year

~ EMT of the year

~ We have also decided to become active in the Oratorical Contest and Student Scholarship programs.

~ One of the Post goals this year is to get known within the community and, hopefully, by working with the Chamber of Commerce, we should get our name out there and get involved within the community. As such, we have joined the South

Montgomery County Woodlands Chamber of Commerce and will be attending its meetings and speaking about our Post.

As you can see from the above listed activities, we do need some help from our members to assist in assuring these programs are worked to the best of our abilities for our vets and their families. We will be issuing a list of the active subcommittees, with any requests for help in the various programs. Please, if you have the time, help us to help our veterans and their families here in the surrounding area. Visit the Post 305 website at: www.alpost305.org.

Please remember that our annual Post picnic is approaching on the 17th of October. It will be held, as usual, in the pavilion at Shadowbend Park on Lake Woodlands Drive. This is a great time to relax and enjoy the comradeship of all other Post members who will be attending. Hamburgers, hot dogs and bratwurst will be provided along with drinks. This will also be an abbreviated monthly Post meeting for October. In case of inclement weather, the Post and Auxiliary meetings will be held at the South County Community Center.

One thing we do not do often enough is to thank each and every one of you for being a part of one of the best Posts in the American Legion. Let me take this occasion to say a deep felt

thank you from Post 305. Please talk to your neighbors and friends about us and bring them to a meeting if you can. Inform them of our website and ask them to fill out an application to join, if a family member is qualified. Be sure they list our website at www.alpost.org on the application.

For God and Country,

Pete Koch

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

August 15, 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. **Commander Koch** recognized three new faces, **Ed Lyda**, a member of the Post attending his first meeting; **Mike Suhr**, a member attending with his father **Chuck Suhr** for the first time; and **Ryan Kurtz**, attending as a guest of **Chaplain Victoria Glover**.

The Commander updated the members on the coming meeting of several veteran's groups to hear County Veterans Service Officer Kay L. Lee on benefits. No date nor time has been set yet. **Brian Claypool** is coordinating. **First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann** had no membership report this early in the year. The Post goal will be set during the Convention.. **Second Vice Commander Mickey Fussell** reported that he had found interest again in going to a casino, so he has planned a daytrip to Coshatta Casino Resort in Kinder, Louisiana, on September 3rd. For those interested in trying their luck, the bus leaves from First Class Tours' terminal at 310 FM 1960 at 8:00 AM and will return you there around 8:00 PM. Call 281-443-1200 to make bus

seat reservations a week in advance. **Mickey** also reported that he is planning a trip to the Battleship Texas sometime in December. So, keep that in mind and check the Bulletin Board to find the exact date.

Judge Advocate Everett Ison read the results of the audit of the Post's books for the year just ending. He reported that all funds were properly accounted for. There were several administrative recommendations for the Finance Officer to incorporate in her bookkeeping and the Adjutant in his record-keeping. **Finance Officer Kim Biggerstaff** presented her monthly financial report and a final budget update for 2012-2013. The General Fund totaled \$16,431.01 at the end of July and the Allocated and Money Market funds held \$22,887.88, for a total bankroll of \$39,308.89. Next, the Finance Officer presented the 2013-2014 budget to the membership. There were no changes or discussion and the new budget was adopted by voice vote.

Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Bolin and **Historian Win Salter** had no report. **Chaplain Victoria Glover** asked all in attendance to list any Post member in need of help, be it solace, prayers or a card. She displayed a form sheet for that. She also informed us that her home, which experienced a fire, had been restored enough to allow her to move back in. **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. **Task Leader Steve McKinsey** reported his deliveries of personal care items to DeBaKey Medical Center was

working well. The hospital now is asking for donations of baseball caps and yarn. The latter for making lap robes for wheelchair-bound vets.

The membership voted to donate \$200 to **Jerry Beaird**, 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 in support of the Post's goal of improving community outreach and public relations. **Kim Biggerstaff** directed attention to two other drives – the Legion's "Operation Comfort Warrior", where Post or personal donations are sought to be presented at the National Convention, and the "Square Knot Award" of the Legion to Boy Scouting. The membership approved a donation of \$100 for OCW.

The meeting was then closed in the customary manner, but a guest of the Auxiliary, Robert Clarke, representing "Red, White and Bike", made a plea for donations of time and funds to aid the children of Purple Heart veterans who are given a bicycle and helmet by his charity. There is an annual rally and ride held in Hockley on November 10, and rest-stop stations along the route can be manned by organized groups. **The Mulvihills** participate and will accept any member's help. Then, those present enjoyed the pot-luck supper prepared by the Auxiliary.

**PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY TO BE
A LEGIONNAIRE**

When you joined a local Post of The American Legion, you first had to demonstrate by documentation that you were eligible

for such membership. That was done by submitting to the Adjutant a copy of your release/discharge Form DD-214 or your discharge certificate or other official papers. Post 305 once retained these copies but stopped doing so some years back. Now, along comes the Internal Revenue Service, whose task among other services, is to conduct audits of the legitimacy of IRC 501(c)(19) associations and that includes Legion Posts. A new initiative by the IRS, ordered by famous Director Lois G. Lerner, is to assure that the members of each Legion Post are qualified as veterans to be members, per the Legion's stipulations, and hence maintain its tax-exemption status. The IRS expects to find copies of Form DD-214 on file at each Post for at least 90% of the membership. So, the Post must restore its member files by requesting each member submit a copy of his or her credentials --- a Form DD-214 or an equivalent proof of service. If your ID number is your Social Security Number, you may black it out. Members on active duty need to submit a copy of their ID card or any other proof of current service. Documents should be sent or handed to Adjutant Pickens Jones.

RAISING THE FLAG AT KINGWOOD RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Post 305 was requested to participate in a ceremony which would honor placing a new Stars and Stripes flag into service. Having never been asked to do that before, the imagination of the Color Guard was put to the test. Fortunately the "Officer's Guide" had a Flag Dedication which could be made to resemble a Flag Raising. Armed with that idea and only two members of the Color Guard able to help, our flag-

raising unit was ready for the ceremony at the Emeritus Retirement Community at Kingwood. About 20 people from the Community were in attendance. The ceremony went off without a hitch. Members of the Retirement Community were very pleased with the results. Several of the veterans in the audience stopped by to talk about their time in the service. Also the staff of Emeritus at Kingwood is interested in helping us in collecting items to be given to the patients at the VA hospital or any other type collection which would benefit veterans. They would also like the address of any members of our community who could benefit from a surprise basket from time to time. Anyone who knows of someone who could be on the list needing help, contact Jim Bolin with their information.



VETERANS ADVOCATE

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IMPACT ON VETERANS

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched an awareness campaign and a new website <http://www.va.gov/aca> to let veterans know what the Affordable Care Act means for them and their families. Veterans receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs will see no change in their benefits or out-of-pocket costs when portions of the Affordable Care Act take effect next year. "VA wants all veterans to receive health care that improves their health and well-being," said

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "If you are enrolled in VA health care, you do not need to take any additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards. If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time." "VA encourages eligible veterans who are not enrolled in VA's health care system to take advantage of the world-class care we provide to the men and women who have served this Nation in uniform," Shinseki added.

Veterans can apply for VA health care at any time by visiting <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll>, or calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), or visiting their local VA health care facility. Full details on eligibility are available at http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book. VA's health care system for veterans has no enrollment fee, no monthly premiums and no deductibles. Most veterans also have no out-of-pocket costs, though some may have small copayments for some health care or prescription drugs. "VA will continue to provide veterans with high quality, comprehensive health care and other benefits they have earned through their service," said Dr. Robert Petzel, VA's Chief Physician and Under Secretary for Health. The Affordable Care Act was created to expand access to coverage, reduce rising health care costs, and improve health care quality and care coordination. The Affordable Care Act creates new opportunities for coverage for uninsured veterans and their families.

TRICARE FOR LIFE UPDATE

Many TRICARE-For-Life (TFL) beneficiaries use Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities for care related to their service connected dis-

abilities. But, as TFL is a comprehensive Medicare wraparound coverage, beneficiaries are reminded they run the risk of unexpected out-of-pocket costs if they use a VA facility for care not related to a service-connected disability. By law, Medicare can't pay for care at a government facility, such as the VA. When a TFL beneficiary chooses to obtain care from a provider that Medicare can't pay, TRICARE can only pay up to 20 percent of the TRICARE-allowable charge. The TFL beneficiary is responsible for paying the VA the remaining 80%. Beneficiaries who have been getting care at a VA facility that is not related to a service-connected disability should talk to a VA representative about other VA options, including how VA can work with other health insurance (OHI) plans.

As part of the intake process at VA facilities after October 1, 2013,

TFL beneficiaries will be asked if they're using their VA or TFL benefit or if they have other health insurance (OHI). When electing to use their TFL benefit at the VA, they will also be informed they must pay the remaining bill after TRICARE pays its portion of the TRICARE-allowable charge. They may be asked to sign a form indicating they understand their responsibility.

TRICARE and the VA recommend getting care for service-connected disability at a VA facility. For other care, TFL beneficiaries may still consider using their VA benefit or they should use TFL with a Medicare-certified provider. When using Medicare providers, TFL beneficiaries typically have no out-of-pocket costs for services covered by both Medicare and TRICARE. For more information about TFL, beneficiaries may contact the TFL support contractor, Wisconsin Physicians

Service (WPS), at 1-866-773-0404 or visit www.tricare.mil/tfl to learn more about using TFL. To find Medicare-certified providers visit www.tricare.mil/findaprovider. For more information about the VA, visit www.va.gov/health.

Important Contact Numbers

Houston Regional VA Office:
1-713-383-7842
County Veterans Service Offices:
Montgomery 1-936-539-7842
(Ms. Kay L. Lee)
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

BULLETIN BOARD: ~WHAT ~ WHEN ~ WHERE ~

Tuesday, September 3; Coushatta Casino Resort Daytrip: If you hustle, you can still make bus seat reservations for this day-long outing. Call First Class Tours at 281-443-1200 to do so – they are required a week in advance of the trip. The bus leaves from the terminal at 310 FM1960 at 8:00 AM and will return you there around 8:00 PM. Hot Tip: Go to the quarter slots; second row; fifth machine from right end. It will be ready to dump on the 3rd.

Saturday, September 7; Veterans Claim Help at Harley-Davidson: Got a VA claim hung up ? VA reps will be at the H-D showroom on I-45 Feeder South to help with a stalled claim. The VFW will be there hawking bar-b-cue. No problems? Go anyway and chow down among the hogs!

Saturday, September 21; National Night Out: The Woodlands recognition of this annual Public Safety Expo runs from noon to 3:00 PM at Northshore Park. Although the Post/Auxiliary will not have a booth this year, go and enjoy the fun, food and equipment.

Thursday, October 17; Post/Unit Oktoberfest Picnic: Except for a brief business meeting starting at 7:00 pm, this is the annual picnic outing for members, families and friends. The Post supplies the burgers, brats and dogs, while the Unit brings the rolls and fixin's. There will be the usual side dishes – beans, potato salad and slaw. Drinks will magically appear, both sodas and margaritas. A great time to relax and chew the fat!

Friday, October 18 & Saturday, October 19; Semi-Annual Rummage Sale: Friday is set-up day when the troops muster at 8:00 AM to truck out the goods from the storage lockers and to lay out the stock on tables and in the yard. It is at the Robinson Road Community Center, Oak Ridge, and lots of help is needed. Although Saturday is Sale Day, the lookers/buyers descend on us on Friday to grab the best bargains. Sign up to help!

MEET YOUR OFFICERS

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



Carl Smith is one of two Executive Committeemen-At-Large, whose role is to augment the other officers, per the Constitution, and act as ombudsman for the benefit of the membership in any and all matters of concern to the Executive Committee. Carl also serves as the Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, where he shares the duties of the Sergeant-At-Arms. He is also a member of the Color Guard. Carl served in the Army from 1969 to 1971 and has been a Legionnaire for 10 years.

Everett Ison (“Ev”) is our Judge Advocate, whose duties include offering professional advice in the conduct of Post business and, as needed, procuring proper counsel, and assuring that Post operations conform to the Constitution and By-Laws. Ev also is the Immediate Past Commander of District 7 and its current First Vice Commander. He also is charged with leading audits of the Post finances. Ev served in the blue-water Navy on several destroyers and has been a Legionnaire for 10 years.



Dayton Denton is our Service Officer, whose primary duties include making known to all veterans and their dependents the rights and benefits granted to them by law, and offering assistance and advice about seeking benefits and filing claims. Dayton has also successfully managed the Post’s Boys State program for years. He served in the Navy for four years; from 1964 to 1968, and has been a member of the Legion for 12 years.

Emery Heuermann is our First Vice Commander, whose main responsibility, beyond being the back-up to Commander Koch, is maintenance of Post membership and all that entails --- dues collection, member retention and recruitment. He also oversees the ceremonial protocol of meetings. Emery has served in numerous positions within the Legion; Commander, Adjutant, Judge Advocate, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms. He has been recipient of the Legionnaire-of-the-Year award. He first became a Legionnaire in 1987, and has been a member of Post 305 since 1999.



AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



Dayna Salter, President

During our August meeting, we heard from another two of the five Girls State participants: **Veronica Trevino** (The Woodlands H/S) and **Jahnavi Muppaneni** (College Park H/S). The girls spoke of their experiences and plans for the future. Once again we were left feeling that the Girls State program is very important for our Unit and for local high school girls.

Also at the August meeting we heard from **Col. Robert Clarke** of the Red, White and Bike organization to which we have donated the last few years. Our \$200 donation buys a bike helmet and lessons for a child or younger sibling of a KIA or Purple Heart soldier. The Unit will sponsor a rest stop at the upcoming ride on November 10th in Hockley. We will

have more information on the logistics of that at the September meeting.

On August 21st the Unit had an open Executive Committee meeting. We discussed unit officer duties and a strategy for the upcoming year. A list will be compiled of our yearly donations and we will vote to approve those funds at the September meeting.

Our records show that our best VA&R fundraising comes from the Poppy Programs in November and May along with the Spring Birdies for Charity. If we focus on making those programs the success we have seen the past two years, we can easily fund our programs and donations.

We also discussed the Junior Patch program. A few senior members were given the information to assess the applicability of the program to our juniors. We will discuss this further at the September meeting.

We will have another Tupperware fundraiser this year, thanks to **Jenny Hamann**. She will have the materials available for us at the September meeting, and it will close on November 1st. Last year the Unit made a few hundred dollars, so another concerted

effort by our members this year could beat even that. These dollars go to the general operating fund that helps keep the Unit operating.

Please start thinking about any juniors in your family for **ALA Scholarships**. Applications will be due in March, so now is the time to start thinking about who might be applying. Also our **ALA Unit 305 Scholarship** is available to either male or female offspring of Unit 305 members who will be freshmen in Fall, 2014. Please let me know of your interest so that we can begin planning and get application forms out.

Our next meeting is on September 19th. Because we cannot rely on kitchen access or a working oven, the theme will be sandwiches and salads. **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the various dishes to be presented. I hope to see you there.

- **Dayna Salter**



2013-14 AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

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Liz Heuermann; Tel: (281) 362-8431; Email: lizheuermann@peoplepc.com
Veronica Maiolo Tel: (832) 228-4403; Email: sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Mon.	Sept. 2	Labor Day	
Tues.	Sept. 3	Daytrip to Louisiana Casino	Coushatta Casino Resort via First Class Tours Bus
Wed.	Sept. 11	Patriot Day – Attack On US (2001)	Anniversary
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
Sat.	Sept. 21	The Woodlands Night Out	Northshore Park; Noon to 3:00 PM
Wed.	Sept. 25 to	Fall Department Executive	Omni Austin Southpark Hotel, Austin
	Sun. Sept. 29	Committee Meeting	
Mon.	Oct. 7	Afghanistan War Began (2001)	
Mon.	Oct. 14	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Oct. 17	Membership Meetings & Picnic	Shadowbend Park @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Oct. 18	Set-up day for Rummage Sale	Robinson Road Community Ctr. @ 8:00 AM
Sat.	Oct. 19	Fall Rummage Sale and Retreat	Robinson Road Community Ctr. @ 7:00 AM
Sat.	Oct. 19	District 7 Convention	Post 615, East New Caney, Texas
Sun.	Oct. 27	Navy Day	
Thur.	Oct. 31	Halloween	BOO !
Tues.	Nov. 5	Election Day	
Sun.	Nov. 10	Red, White and Bike Charity Race	Hockley. TX (Rest-Stop Manning)
Mon.	Nov. 11	Veterans Day	
Mon.	Nov. 18	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Nov. 21	Membership Meetings (Boys State)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Nov. 28	Thanksgiving	Gobble Gobble !

POST CONTACT INFORMATION

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel. Number</u>
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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
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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.