



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305

"THE WOODLANDS POST"

THE BUGLE



FEBRUARY 2014

VOLUME 10; ISSUE 2

THINK NOT OF THE PRICE OF YOUR DUES; THINK OF THE PRICE YOU PAID TO BE ELIGIBLE

Post Commander Pete Koch



COMMANDER'S CORNER

With the big holidays behind us and February about to show its frosty head, we need to get back to work and continue to help our veterans and their families who are in need. Our big January event was the annual Chili Cook-off Contest. There were a total of nine entries; five from Post members and four from Unit members. A panel of Post members judged the Auxiliary entries and those of the Unit judged the Post submissions. The Post first-place winner was **Dayton Denton**, who presented his buffalo-based chili. He influenced the lady judges by setting up a whole table display of American Indian artifacts, including a ceremonial headpiece adorned with buffalo horns and feathers. The runner-up was **Win Salter**. The Auxiliary blue ribbon went to **Geri Mulvihill**, and that runner-

up was **Dayna Salter**. The first-place winners will receive an appropriate plaque and certificate for their excellent culinary creations. If you were not in attendance, you missed some good chili of nine varieties from which to select. A good time was had by all!

Looking ahead, there is a vast amount of work to be done from the National level down to the Post level. The Legion National Commander Daniel Dellinger has been quite active back in Washington, D.C. in assuring that the new budget does not adversely impact our veterans and their benefits. He has also elected an annual goal to raise \$1 million for the Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF). It is a very lofty goal but one that equates to about 50 cents per Legion member. He feels the Legion can do it. Given the 2013 natural disasters – the mid-west tornadoes, Super-storm Sandy, floods, western wildfires and East Coast hurricanes – we can only expect similar will hit somewhere at sometime. Thus, the Commander encourages you to support fundraisers for this most worthy cause.

As of this January, the Legion's "Paid-Up-For-Life" program has been modified to include direct-marketing and a revised price structure. Members are now able to complete a PUFL application on-line. There are

two options for making the payment: pay in full up front and pay over a 12-months' period by monthly credit card automatic charges. In the latter case, the member will not receive his/her PUFL ID card until the last payment is received, but the member will be considered "in-good-standing" through the months of payments.

The Post membership was at a paid-up count of 279 as of year-end. Our goal is 322 and we need to achieve that (plus one) by May 7. So, for you who are unpaid, let's "get her done" soonest!

In the first half of this year (in 2013), we have been quite active in the programs of Americanism, Youth Activities, Community Services and Veteran Services. Our Post has been active in all of these committees, but with your help in the rest of this year, we can do better!

The Department's Mid-winter Conference took place in the latter days of January in Austin. That is when the Department Committees get together and share status reports. Post and Unit 305 were represented by **Kim Biggerstaff** and **Rosalie Fryer**. Leadership, Education and Development Training was conducted. Subjects covered were Public Relations and VAV Services.

Lastly, the Post will soon start the process of election of its officers for 2014-2015, an elected slate which will take over the leadership of this Post at the July meeting. It is my conviction that we get more new faces elected and refrain from just playing musical chairs with the same crew. I am including in this issue, and in the next few, descriptions of each officer-ship position and a consensus of "intensity", so you will better know the scope of duties and responsibility and the level of demands on time and knowledge. This issue covers the positions of Adjutant, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate and Historian.

For God and Country,

Pete Koch

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(January 17, 2014)

The Post Membership Meeting was convened at 7:00 PM in the prescribed manner and a quorum was determined. The minutes of the last Membership Meeting were approved. At the order of the Commander, the **Sergeant-At-Arms Jim Bolin** introduced three guests – all eligible to become Post members. They were **Andy Howard, Craig Joncyk** and **Joseph Bennett**.

Finance Officer Kim Biggerstaff gave the Financial Report as follows: General Fund - \$18,971.30; Allocated Fund - \$22,882.67; Total of both funds - \$41,799.97. The report was approved pending audit. **First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann**, reported on membership; the Post has 279 members paid up for the year 2014. That is 86.5% of our goal of 322. According to the

timeline, we had to reach 85% by the end of December and need to see 100% by May 7th.

Second Vice Commander, Mickey Fussell noted that **Harlen Thornhill** came home from the hospital on Thursday morning after being treated for bronchitis. **Mickey** then cited the next fieldtrip will be to the National Museum of Funerals on February 5. Trip-makers will carpool from the Woodlands Methodist Church parking lot (where the 4th of July parade musters), departing at 9:30 AM. A lunch stop after the tour of the museum is on the schedule. **Mickey** has checked the reviews by visitors to the museum, and all are very positive, so a good time should be had by all.

Commander Koch led the Post in paying tribute to the passing of Post member and former Army nurse **Marge Brown** by draping the Charter in her honor.

Sergeant-At-Arms Jim Bolin reported that he had recruited three more members to round out the Color Guard for the ceremony at Cantix Continuing Care facility. Next he discussed the "Birdies for Charity" campaign which is beginning now and runs to the last day of March. He distributed chance forms to those members who were present. Those not present will find a form on Page 6 or may get one at the next meeting, or, if you are unable to make the meeting, you can call **Jim** at 281-251-2352 and verbally give him the information he needs to turn in a guess and pledge from you.

The next report came from **Service Officer, Dayton Denton**, who described how he

helped a woman by purchasing a bag of food for her. As noted in the Commanders Corner, **Dayton** donned his Indian headdress, which simulated the head of a buffalo. In describing its virtues, he noted that the membership meeting should also be a time for fun. It need not be a stuffy affair with only one or two people doing the talking. So, lighten up!

Then **Dayton** read an acceptance letter from SMU, which was received by one of the Boy's State attendees. The letter made clear that one of the reasons this boy was accepted at SMU was his attendance at Boy's State. He also noted that we need to support **Steve McKinsey** by bringing items for use by the veterans at the VA's DeBakey Medical Center.

Commander Pete Koch then discussed the 7th District's April Convention, to be held in The Woodlands at the Holiday Inn Express. He said that the committees to perform the work would be selected at a February 1, meeting, and, in his view, they will be made up of members from every Post in the District. After those committees are formed, he will appoint members to Post/Unit committee to contribute to our portion of the Convention. **Everett Ison** reported that the Visitor's Bureau will contribute 150 "goody" bags for the attendees of the event

There being no further business to come before the membership, the meeting was closed in the prescribed manner.

The Post and the Auxiliary then turned to the hard job of judging the quality of the offered chilis. Small cups were furnished to hold a sample of chili and a

ballot to vote for the top three chilies. The Post voted on the Auxiliary's offerings while the Auxiliary voted on the Post's offerings. As noted by the Commander, **Dayton Denton's** buffalo chili took first place for the Post, and he will receive a nice plaque to note his success at the event. For the Auxiliary, **Geri Mulvihill** won first place. She will receive an award from the Auxiliary.



THE FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Traditionally, American Legion Posts memorialize the loss of four US Army chaplains who died when their troop transport was sunk by a German U-boat while enroute to Greenland. The February 3, 1943 sinking of the *USAT Dorchester* while in convoy would have been just a footnote to history, however, the these four chaplains, who had been through training together, gave up their lives so that other troops had a better chance to survive. The Post and Unit will join to conduct the Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony, to be conducted by our two Chaplains, at the February meeting.



The *Dorchester*, an old coastal liner, was struck amidships, was darkened and sank quickly. The four chaplains helped the GI's and crew members to find their way to lifeboats, and, as the number of available lifejackets ran out, removed their own and gave them to others. By that action, the four committed themselves to death. They joined arms and sang hymns, as they went down with the ship. These four men of God were:

- ~ Father John R. Washington
- ~ Reverend George R. Fox
- ~ Rabbi Alexander D. Goode,
- ~ Reverend Clark V. Poling



VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

COLA UPDATE

A massive spending bill taking shape on Capitol Hill is likely to repeal a recently enacted pension cut for disabled veterans. Capitol Hill aides said on January 8th that the \$1 trillion-plus omnibus spending bill measure will reverse a 1.0 percentage point cut to annual cost-of-living increases that was inadvertently applied to more than 63,000 veterans who have left the military due to injury or disability. But, the controversial pension cut included in last month's budget agreement would continue to apply to other military retirees. It would save about \$6 billion over the coming decade, money that's being used to ease cuts to the

Pentagon budget this year. The pension cuts have drawn fierce opposition from veterans groups and lawmakers in both parties, but it's unclear whether the entire provision will be repealed. The aides required anonymity because the spending bill isn't complete, and they aren't authorized to discuss it publicly. Some lawmakers originally claimed, incorrectly, that the pension cut in last month's budget bill would not apply to disabled veterans. When they discovered that it did, they immediately promised to correct it. The upcoming budget measure is the first available vehicle.

House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) recently defended the pension cut in an op-ed in USA Today, saying he stands behind "responsible reforms of military compensation." Service members are permitted to retire at half pay after 20 years in the military, which means they can claim their pensions as early as age 38, a generous benefit that defenders say helps retain servicemen and women. He said a typical serviceman who retires at age 38 would receive a \$1.7 million pension over his lifetime instead of a \$1.8 million benefit and that most military retirees go on to second careers. House Appropriations Committee spokeswoman Jennifer Hing said the pension provision is "part of the conversation" lawmakers are having on the omnibus spending measure, which lawmakers hope to release shortly. A short-term spending bill expired January 15 and Congress needed to act before then to avert a government shutdown. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers (R-KY) said that he's pressing

for a short extension of perhaps two days to buy more time to pass the measure through Congress. [Source: Associated Press | Andrew Taylor | 9 Jan 2014 ++]

THE MILITARY
COMPENSATION AND
RETIREMENT
MODERNIZATION
COMMISSION ACTS

Other than COLA-cuts, the MCRMC is currently touring the country to gauge reactions to potential changes to military pay and benefits. Fort Sam Houston and San Antonio's VA Medical Center were their latest stop with two public hearings and a town hall meeting on January 6th and 7th. The Commission is charged with examining how the troops are compensated while in uniform, in retirement and as veterans, and every-thing military or veteran-related is on their table, to include the 20-year retirement system, military pay and allowances, concurrent receipt, the GI Bills, military healthcare, exchanges, commissaries and schools, and transition and employment assistance programs, among many others. The VFW testified before the Commission in November and views their charter as a serious attempt to balance the budget on the backs of military families, retirees and veterans through an erosion of pay and benefits that will negatively impact recruiting and retention, and possibly threaten the continued viability of the All-Volunteer Military. The Commission is required to issue their report to the White House by May 1, 2014. For more information or to leave a public comment, go to: <http://www.mcrmc.gov/>.

POST OFFICERS' GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

[Every officer may be assigned other duties or volunteer for such. Stated here are the basic duties of the positions and a "intensity" measure, where the duties of the Commander are deemed the highest, rated "10" on a scale of 3 to 10]

ADJUTANT: This officer is in essence the "First Sergeant" of the Post or the "chief administrative officer", processing all incoming and outgoing official correspondence and maintaining the Post's files, except those particular to finances. The Commander depends on the Adjutant to assist him/her in whatever matter the Commander requests. The Adjutant is the record-keeper, taking notes of matters dealt with at all formal meetings and preparing the minutes. He is the personnel officer. He is the recipient of all dues payments and processes incoming dues, completing record cards, depositing funds, notifying the Finance Officer to prepare a check by which the Department's increment is forwarded to the Department with the related Record Cards, and mailing out members' ID Cards. Recording all changes in a member's status and data; reporting regularly to the Commander and the First Vice the status of dues payments; placing purchase orders for Post equipment; and, as requested, for individual members. He/she supports other officers and committees, as may be requested and publishes official orders, announcements and instructions. Intensity level = 8, and computer skills are highly desirable. The Adjutant is bonded.

FINANCE OFFICER: This officer is the Post's treasurer or "chief financial officer", a person of proven integrity and experience in handling financial affairs, but not necessarily a professional accountant. He/she administers the Post's financial policy, handles funds, manages bank accounts, keeps the books, prepares and maintains the budget, receives and disburses funds, works closely with the Adjutant as dues payments are received and sending dues increments to the Department, selecting and using computer software, maintaining financial records, assisting with audits and producing regular financial reports to the Commander, Intensity level = 8. Computer skills are required and the officer is bonded. He/she also chairs the Finance Committee.

JUDGE ADVOCATE: This officer is primarily charged with providing professional advice in the conduct of Post business and, as needed, procuring professional services of proper counsel. He/she oversees the constitutional form of Post operations and acts as the parliamentarian of the Post. He/she assists other officers in the protocols, legal advice, ceremonial procedures and interpretation of the By-Laws. He/she chairs the Audit Committee and reports findings to the membership. Intensity level = 5.

HISTORIAN: This officer is responsible for producing a two-volume set of the Post's history covering the period July 1 to June 30. These books are called the "History", largely a narrative of the year-in-review, and the "Yearbook", a collection of photos and other graphic materials in support of the Volume I. All during the year, this officer must collect various documents suitable for these books and record all types of events involving the Post, including photographs. There is a highly structured scope of these books provided by National and a weighting of all aspects of the final products, because these books may be submitted to the Department in competition with other Posts. Intensity level = 6. Photographic, writing and word processing skills are necessary.

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



Dayna Salter, President

I am sad to say that we have lost another senior member. **Jena Clark** passed away on December 31st. Our condolences go out to her friends and family.

Our January meeting was quite an event with the friends and staff of Red, White and Bike joining us to award a bicycle, helmet and bell to "little hero" Chris whose father, Tony Croley, received a Purple Heart, the National Defense Ribbon, the Overseas Cam-paign Ribbon and the Iraqi Defense Medal while serving in Iraq. He was badly wounded in Ba'Quoba, Iraq while on patrol. Along with Chris and his sister Morgan, we were joined by Larry Reid, Red, White and Bike founder, and Board member Laura Bowman, among others.



The next Red, White and Bike race event will be February 9th in Hockley where ALA Unit 305 will be staffing a rest stop at the Oil Ranch. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out.

Another program that the Unit is advocating this year is the American Legion Auxiliary Junior Patch Program. Junior member **Macy Marshall** is actively pursuing her patches with the help of mom **Stephanie Marshall** and mentor **Rosalie Fryer**.



In this picture **Macy** is learning about the ALA Field Service Program from **Rosalie Fryer**.



In this picture, **Macy** is pulling weeds, one of several tasks she is undertaking to raise money for the National President's Scholarship. This is for a Special Junior Patch "Educating Children of Warriors". So far, she's raised \$40! If interested in working the patch program with your Junior member, here's the link:

<http://www.legion-aux.org/Programs/Junior-Activities-Electronic-Patch-Program/>

At the next meeting, we will include the Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony. The potluck theme will be salads and sandwiches as the kitchen will not be available. Veronica Maiolo will be calling around to coordinate the dishes to be presented.

Happy Valentine's Day !

- Dayna Salter



2013-14 AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT: Dayna Salter; Tel: (281) 229-1365; E-mail: dayna.salter@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: Vergie Fussell; Tel: (281) 367-7115; E-mail: V.H.Fussells@gmail.com

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

TREASURER: Open

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

CHAPLAIN: Jenny Hamann; Tel: (281) 323-4530; E-mail: jmlchirp@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 Heuermann; Tel: (281) 362-8431; Email: lizheuermann@peoplepc.com

Veronica Maiolo Tel: (832) 228-4403; Email: sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net



Presented by

Houston Golf Association

Promoting golf to enhance the future of Houston area youth.

Pledge per Birdie:

- One (1) guess for each \$0.01 pledged
 1 penny = 1 guess
 2 pennies = 2 guesses
 5¢ a birdie = 5 guesses

Flat donations in multiples of \$20

- \$20 donation = 1 guess**
\$100 donation = 5 guesses
\$5,000 donation = 250 guesses

Please make checks payable to the
Houston Golf Association.

Deadline for the “Guess the Birdies” contest is 11:59 pm (midnight) Monday, March 31, 2014.



Pledge Form

I pledge and promise to donate for every birdie made during the 2014 Shell Houston Open to the Birdies for Charity Program.

Pledge Amount

OR

OR

ॐ

Per Birdie

Minimum of \$0.01

One Time Donation

Minimum of \$20.00

First Name:

Last Name:

E-mail Address*:

*required for paperless billing

Company Name:

Address:

Suite:

City:

State:

Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Telephone:

Guess the Birdies Contest

I guess that exactly _____ birdies will be made Wednesday through Sunday of Tournament week. List multiple guesses on back of form. If more than 100 guesses, attach multiple forms. *Void where prohibited by law.* Rules information listed on middle panel.

List Multiple Guesses Here:

This image shows a full page of primary-ruled notebook paper. It features ten horizontal blue lines spaced evenly down the page. There are two vertical red lines on each side, creating three equal-width columns. The paper is otherwise blank, with no handwriting or other markings.

**Pledge form must be returned to
charity inviting your pledge.**

**American Legion
Post 305
The Woodlands, TX**

248

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

DAY	DATE	EVENT	LOCALE
Wed.	Feb. 5	Outing to Funeral Museum	Carpool from Methodist Church @ 9:30 AM
Fri.	Feb. 14	Valentine's Day	
Mon.	Feb. 17	President's Day	
Mon.	Feb. 17	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thurs.	Feb. 20	Membership Meeting (Four Chaplains Memorial Service)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Mon.	Mar. 17	St Patrick's Day	
Mon.	Mar. 17	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thurs.	Mar. 20	Membership Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thurs.	Mar. 20	First Day of Spring	
Mon.	Mar. 24	Kosovo Campaign Began	
Thurs.	Mar. 27	Color Guard presents Flags	Cantix Continuing Care @4:30 PM
Mon.	Mar. 31	Last Day for Submission of Birdies	Call Jim Bolin, 281-251-2352
Mon.	Mar. 31	Somalia Peace-Keeping Began	
Mon.	Apr. 14	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Tue.	Apr. 15	Income Tax Due	
Thur.	Apr. 17	Membership Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @7:00 PM

POST CONTACT INFORMATION

Position	Name	Tel. 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:		
	Harlen Thornhill	(409) 273-2287
	Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714

E-MAIL

petekoch76@gmail.com
emeryheuermann@charter.net
v.h.fussells@gmail.com
pickensjones@usa.net
kingator5747@sbcglobal.net
whselfstorage1@yahoo.com
jpb20006@sbcglobal.net
[c.smith@thewestern
systemsinc.com](mailto:c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com)
goldvicgoddess@gmail.com
cowboys.dawn@gmail.com
eison01@comcast.net
flintyeye@gmail.com
harlen@consolidated.net
[c.smith@thewestern
systemsinc.com](mailto:c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com)

OTHER INFORMATION:

THE BUGLE BRASS: EDITOR: Jim Bolin; **CIRCULATION:** Emery Heuermann; **COFFEE BOY:** 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.