

# \*\*THE WOODLANDS POST\*\* THE BUGLE



MARCH 2014 VOLUME 10; ISSUE 3

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

### Post Commander Pete Koch



#### **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Dear Legionnaires',

At the February meeting, the Post and the Unit conducted the traditional Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony, which was one of the best observed by this Post in a long time. It began with the singing of "America the Beautiful". The Chaplains from both the Post and the Unit – Victoria Glover and Jenny Hamann -- deserve an "at-a-girl" from all the members.



Congressman Kevin Brady was a special guest at the meeting and gave us a brief update on several bills in development having to do with defense and veterans' affairs, particularly issues which are impacting active GI's and their families and veterans benefits.

This month the Executive Committee must appoint a Nominating Committee to form a slate of officer candidates for election for 2014-2015. The general need is to get more members involved in operation of this Post. You once responded to "Uncle Sam Wants You!". Now, it may be that "Post 305 Wants You", as more than just a member. So, please start thinking about serving in one of the 12 officer positions. To help potential candidates consider putting their hat in the ring, I am asking each current officer to stand and describe his or her duties and responsibilities to those at our coming meetings and to continue to include in The Bugle the job descriptions, so that you will understand these and accept nomination or vote with that knowledge. Votes have consequences!

As you should know by now, our Post is the Host Post for the 2014 7<sup>th</sup> District Convention to be held next month on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Express in The Woodlands. We are still looking for volunteers to help with the convention. If you would like to get involved in the setting up and running of this

important event, let one of the officers know. The all-day Convention will include general and breakout sessions, as usual.

The "Travelling Trophy Contest" is "Caps Off for Veterans!" and will challenge all District 7 Posts to try to outdo each other in the donation of serviceable ball caps, plain or promotional. So, for Post 305 to win, we need the most ball caps! Go through your collection and part with a dozen or so! It's for a good cause and they will end up at a Bring VA hospital. your contribution the March to meeting or get them to an officer in another way.

Another Convention sideline is the raffling off of a rifle – an old Winchester Model 60A; .22 caliber, single-shot rifle. This gun was made in the early 30's. More information will be presented at the March 20<sup>th</sup> Post meeting. Please plan on attending. Tickets (\$1.00) are on sale as of now.

Maintenance and recruitment of Post membership remains a top issue, so we need your renewals sent to P.O. Box 9336 as soon as possible. It will not be long before the 2013/14 year ends, and we will be into 2014/15. I would hate to see your continuous years of Legion service broken. As of now, we are at 89% of our goal of 322

members, with 288 paid members, including 33 PUFL's.

The programs the Post is carrying out (Boys State, scholarships, oratorical contests, and others) get vital support from the dues increment which remains with the Post. Payment of annual dues allows you to remain one of us, a proud and active Post, as well as helping to fund veteran and community programs.

Our Color Guard is getting many requests and still needs some more trained volunteers to help out in this area. The Post fields a four-member Color Guard, but it needs more alternates to fill in when one member is sick or cannot participate for some other reason. We have had to turn down requests on occasion. If you are interested, see Jim Bolin about the duty and its requirements.

As a reminder, I say again for all members to update and maintain their information with the Post when changes occur, so that we can correct our records and those of the Department and National as well.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Convention is going to be held right after the 7<sup>th</sup> District Convention on April 26-27, and it will be held at Post 521 located at 2221 Preston Avenue, Pasadena, Texas 77503. In closing, remember to pray for our troops and their safety in their ongoing efforts to protect our country. Our next meeting will be at 7:00 PM on March 20th at the South County Community Center.

For God and Country,

Pete Koch

#### **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

(February 20, 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 four guests — Congressman Kevin Brady, Jerry Mulvihill's son-in-law and Victoria Glover's husband and son.

In the absence of the Finance Officer, the Commander read the Financial Report as follows: General Fund - \$18,765.78; Allocated Fund - \$22,883.64; Total of both funds \$41,649.42. The report was approved pending audit. First Vice Commander **Emery** Heuermann. reported on membership; the Post has 288 members paid up for the year 2014. That is 89.4% of our goal of 322.

**Second Vice Commander**, **Mickey Fussell** reported that all six members of the Legion who went on the trip to the National Museum of Funeral History enjoyed the experience.

Our next fieldtrip will be on Tuesday, April 8, to a local winery. It will be a wine tasting experience, and the winery is in Old Town Spring at 206 Main Wimberley Street, Valley Wines. The cost will be \$5.00 to tour the facility and taste four wines. The skinny is that we should eat first, so we will carpool from the Methodist Church Parking Lot. Be there by 11:00 AM and join the group while we decide where to go for lunch.

**Mickey** also noted that we are running low on items for the

rummage sale coming up in April. (Read the separate article on this crisis.)

Mickey will be managing the raffle of the 1933 .22 cal. Winchester at the upcoming District 7 Convention. Anyone can buy tickets from Mickey before the Convention at the following rate: \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00, and 30 for \$20.00.



Chaplain Victoria Glover reported that Gene Wilson has placed Joe Watz in the Regent Care Center of The Woodlands, a skilled nursing and rehab center, in Room 408.

Sergeant-At-Arms Jim Bolin gave a plug for the "Birdies for Charity" campaign, which 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 7 of this Bugle. If you are unable to attend the meeting in March, 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. You will be billed by the Birdies Campaign.

The **Commander** then discussed what he and **Dayton Denton** are plugging at the Chamber of Commerce meetings. They want the Chamber membership to notify us if any of their employees who are veterans are having any problems. If so, maybe we can help. They are also talking up Boy's State in hopes of getting a few sponsors.

The Adjutant and the Historian had no report. The Service Officer and the Judge Advocate were absent.

The **Commander** then gave a rundown on the process he will use to get others interested in becoming an officer. He will have each officer describe their position's duties so that the membership can make an informed decision on which offices they would be comfortable in running for at this year's election.

Steve McKinsey than gave a brief report on the items he is taking to the VA Hospital. The Post was collecting baseball caps for DeBakey veterans, but we now need such to turn in at the Convention's Travelling Trophy Contest. However, the Post is continuing to collect items of personal comfort and enjoyment for the vets, so keep those small items coming! Books and paperbacks are OK, but magazines are not unless very current.

Under "For the Good of the Legion", the Commander reminded all that the Division Convention is the last weekend in April at Post 521 in Pasadena. The meeting was closed in due form at 8:35. The membership moved to the light refreshments and camaraderie.

## SPRING CLEANING: THE RUMMAGE SALE

Even if you don't live in Spring, it's time for spring cleaning. No, we are not referring to the primary elections! Simply put, our Rummage Sale items are nearly depleted, so we need your serviceable cast-offs. It's time to admit you will never fit again into those '70's bell bottoms or that Nehru jacket! And, what about that almost-

new Oilers sweatshirt or those old stored things Grandma left you? The Spring sale is on Saturday, April 19, with Set-Up Day (when half the goods are sold) on Friday, April 18, So. box up or bag your donations and either bring them to the storage locker on West Hawthorne Drive (south off of Rayford Road); or bring them to the sales site on Set-Up Day (Robinson Road Community Center); or phone Mickey Fussell (281-367-7115) or Jim Bolin (281-251-2352) to either collect your donations, if heavy or bulky; or tell you how to access the storage locker, where your goods can be stashed at any time.

Now, this year for the first time, we are adding a new "department" --- "Tiffany Two". That's a table loaded with costume jewelry and other valuable trinkets. So, among your contributions, it is a good time to put Aunt Drucilla's legacy to good use and give it an airing and new life. Just bag it or box it and include it with those clothing and household items you no longer have space for or are just tired of.

How does a fund-raiser like a rummage sale help veterans and their families? By giving Post 305 added funds to spend on GI-related programs – that's how, and your gifts to the cause are tax-deductible. Just ask for a signed receipt.

#### **DISTRICT 7 CONVENTION**

This year's Spring District Convention is being hosted by Post/Unit 305 on Saturday, April 5. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Express on the I-45 Northbound Frontage Road, just south of the Rayford-Sawdust Road I-45 Interchange. Every member of the

Post and Auxiliary is invited to attend and, if you want to help out, make that known to the Commander or another officer. The program is being finalized now and will be posted on the Website. There will be a hospitality suite open on Friday evening. Although we are the host - doing most of the venue and meal planning and the desk manning, it is the District's affair, ably led by Commander Ed Jarvis and his team (which includes our own Pete Koch and Kim Biggerstaff). So, mark your calendars and watch the Website.

## THE POST CONNECTS WITH THE WOODLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ever since the Post joined the Chamber, it has been Commander Koch and Service Officer Dayton Denton who have "carried the flag" promoted our presence and purposes. We gain from the association, but so does the Chamber its and other members. One change we caused is the recitation of the Pledge as a part of the meeting opening ritual. We also have distributed trifold Legion brochures among the members.





#### **VETERAN'S ADVOCATE**

### NATIONAL GUARD JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Blackstone Group L.P., an investment firm, wants to fill 12,000 job openings in its companies with as manv National Guardsmen as possible. Retired Colonel Pete Duffy, the NGAUS legislative director, was told of the company's plan to work with the National Guard at a meeting recently at the Blackstone offices in New York City. Duffy said the company, which owns Hilton Hotels, Catalent Pharma Solutions. United Biscuits. Celanese and many others, is targeting five states for its direct placement hiring program. The states are New York, New Jersey, Florida, Texas and California. "This program will certainly help out many of our National Guard members who are having a tough time finding a job," Duffy said. "Blackstone has recognized the value found motivated trained. and experienced citizen-soldiers and airmen." [Source: NGAUS Washington Report 11 Feb 2014 ++1

### SOME VETERAN PAY CUTS RESCINDED

The Senate overwhelmingly approved a House-passed bill by a 95 to 3 vote that would unwind \$6 billion in cuts to veterans benefits from last year's budget deal that proved to be a political fiasco for all

involved. The conclusion of the battle to unwind the cuts in Congress culminates several davs of flip-flops Democrats and Republicans. The lawmakers ultimately concluded it was shrewder to put to rest a rising political vulnerwith veterans than ability continue petty squabbles over offsets that are lost on the public at large. The take-away message from the massive backlash over a relatively smalldollar provision included in last year's budget agreement which was engineered by Wisconsin Republican Paul Ryan is don't mess with vets, especially in an election year. The legislation, which now heads to President Obama's desk for his signature, would pay restoring a one percent cost-ofliving adjustment to military retirees' pensions by extending the mandatory sequester cuts an additional year.

#### TRICARE UPDATE

This week TRICARE officials updated the Military Coalition (TMC) on a number of issues that impact beneficiaries. They were:

TRICARE For Life – The biggest change is the launch of a pilot program in February that requires TRICARE For Life (TFL) beneficiaries to maintenance medication (e.g., blood pressure medication) refills through the mail-order pharmacy for one year. Letters remaining the 300,000 affected beneficiaries will be mailed on February 18. TFL beneficiaries may refill twice at a retail pharmacy before they become responsible for 100% of the cost of their medication at retail providers. A full beneficiary communication plan will be implemented once the

Express Scripts call center is prepared to fully answer questions about the pilot.

#### **Compounded Prescriptions -**

- TRICARE does not cover drugs that are not approved by the FDA and cannot reimburse for non-FDA approved bulk chem-ical ingredients in compounded prescriptions. A planned review of this policy has been suspended due to the recently enacted "Drug Quality and Security Act." TRICARE will re-examine its policy after an FDA review, but no date has been set for completion.

Reenrollment in TRICARE
Prime -- The FY 2014 Defense
Authorization Act grandfathers
TRICARE Prime beneficiaries
who lost access to due to a
reduction in Prime Service
Areas. Guidelines for reenrollment are not yet available, but
should be coming soon. MOAA
is monitoring the situation
closely and will provide updates
as soon as they become
available.

Nurse Advice Line -- A Nurse Advice Line is coming in spring 2014. TRICARE beneficiaries will have toll-free access to registered nurses 24 hours a day, every day. Nurses will answer questions and help with decisions regarding self-care at home or when it is best to see a healthcare provider. The service will be available to all TRICARE beneficiaries



#### 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 an "intensity" measure, where the duties of the Commander are deemed the highest, rated "10" on a scale of 3 to 10]

**SECOND VICE COMMANDER:** This officer is responsible for making Post membership and meeting attendance pleasant, attractive and fun, while carrying out the work of the Legion. He or she is the "morale officer" and assists the Commander in the running of programs and in spicing up meetings. This Vice Commander must plan ahead and fill the Post's social calendar months in advance with activities which will bring out active members as well as those who are just card-carrying Legionnaires. He or she must be alert to coming patriotic holidays such that each gets the observance they deserve and is concerned with the pageantry so closely associated with the Legion (e.g. parade appearances). This officer leads or assists with outings, tours, picnics, rummage sales and the welfare of fellow veterans. Intensity level = 6.

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:** This officer is responsible at membership meetings for organizing the meeting room,\* with support of the Adjutant, and controlling the security of room entrances, assuring that all entering are Post members, invited guests, potential Post members or others who have business before the Post. He or she is the greeter or chairs the welcome committee. All Legionnaires want to feel they are part of the Post, particularly new members attending their first few meetings. The Sergeant-At-Arms maintains a sign-in sheet which each attendee must sign, and he imposes any dress code policies of the Post. He or she leads the Color Guard during presentation and retirement of the colors, and is expert in flag etiquette, display and handling procedures.

The Sergeant-At-Arms is captain of the Color Guard and hence is responsible for maintaining trained members, four in number plus alternates. This officer and the color-guard members must be proficient in close-order drill (as a rank of four) and in basic manual-of-arms movements. He or she responds to the needs for the Guard or a Burial Detail, schedules such appearances and assures that the members are in proper attire and condition. Intensity level, not reflecting added duties (below) = 7.

\*[At Post 305, the Sergeant currently is the keeper of certain meeting paraphernalia, bringing it from his home and back. These articles include four large flags on poles in soft cases, four flag stands, the set of small service flags and their stand (disassembled), sign-up sheets and "split-the-pot" tickets and their container. Other assigned or voluntary duties currently include Rummage Sale Committee Chairman and sale operations manager, annual picnic meat scrounger and cook, manager of the Birdies charity drive and participant in the Boys State, Scholarship and Oratorical Contest interview team. He is also newsletter Editor and Hubmaster contact.]

**SERVICE OFFICER:** This officer is responsible for providing benefit and entitlement information, advice and procedures by which Post members and other veterans draw upon the benefits they are entitled to by law or policy of the Legion, the Veterans Administration and local state, county and city offices. He or she is charged with conceiving and developing means and methods by which the Post can reach out to local veterans and their families, identify their needs and recommend actions the Post can initiate in response. The Service Officer establishes and maintains contact with other Service Officers, especially those at the Department, such that he is fully aware of the current circumstances and pending changes in veteran's benefits, claims processing and backlog, pathways to effective counterparts and useful publications and forms. He or she is there to assist veterans in completing and filing claim forms and documents, determining eligibility for health and retirement benefits. This officer chairs the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee. Intensity level = 7.

[ At Post 305, the Service Officer currently manages the Boys State program and participates in several other activities. (e. g. Chamber-of-Commerce interface; merchant discount promotion)]

#### **AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS**

#### Auxiliary President Dayna Salter



ALA Unit 305 is in full mission mode getting ready for the District 7 Spring Convention on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Express, located at 24888 I-45N Frontage Road. I am also preparing our annual Department reports and finalizing membership numbers. And, we are in the middle of one of our big annual fund raising programs "Birdies for Charity".

Let's begin with the District 7 Convention. Convention details are contained elsewhere in this issue of *The Bugle*, so I won't repeat those here. What I'd like to know is who can help out on the Unit side. The tasks involve stuffing the registration bags, staffing the Convention and participating in the Convention.

I do want to encourage any interested member of Unit 305 to attend. The Unit will pay the

registration costs for any member (lunch included). The program will include reports from the other Units where we can get ideas for our own programs, and there will be leadership training by Diana King, one of our former Department Presidents. Come help and join in the camaraderie. If you have not already done so at the February meeting, please email me with your interest to attend/help out.

Also this Spring, I need to report the hours and dollars spent by the Unit and the members in service to veterans and the community. I have emailed out the hours reporting form. Please return it to me as soon as possible. Hours include spent working veterans and military families or for their benefit, time spent in the community (including Girls State and school programs), and Americanism projects such replacement as flag disposal.

I am very pleased with our current membership number which stands at 96. We still need to grow by enlisting new and younger members who can carry on the traditions and work of Unit 305. Please look among your social circles for potential

members who have the passion to stick with the Unit. We don't want to sign up new members who are not truly interested in what we do just to bolster our June numbers.

Finally, it is Birdies for Charity time again. Rosalie Fryer is chairing that fundraiser for the This fundraiser brought us around \$800 a year. Let's try for \$1,000 this year. Please solicit your social circles for donations of \$20 or more. A \$20 donation buys one guess at the total number of Birdies that will be attained at the Shell Houston Open in late March. bring your Please Birdies money to the March meeting. Remember we are not accepting cents per birdie pledges. Please see the February Bugle for the forms.

Our next meeting is March 20<sup>th</sup> and the supper theme will be "potluck" – anything goes. The business meeting will be an indepth planning meeting for the upcoming District 7 Convention, so I hope to see you there. Don't forget to get me a count of the hours you have spent from March 31, 2013 to April 1, 2014.

Happy Mardi Gras!
Dayna Salter



#### 2013-14 AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT: Dayna Salter; Tel: (281) 229-1365; E-mail: <a href="mailto:dayna.salter@ymail.com">dayna.salter@ymail.com</a>
VICE PRESIDENT: Vergie Fussell: Tel: (281) 367-7115; E-mail: <a href="mailto:hmf1deer@gmail.com">hmf1deer@gmail.com</a>
SECRETARY: Sandie Holzinger; Tel: (281) 364-8590; E-mail: <a href="mailto:zing1991@yahoo.com">zing1991@yahoo.com</a>

TREASURER: Open

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

CHAPLAIN: Jenny Hamann; Tel: (281) 323-4530; E-mail: imlchirp@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: <a href="mailto:c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com">c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com</a>

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:** 

Mary Bolin; Tel: (281) 251-2352; Email: jpb20006@sbcglobal.net

Liz Heuermann; Tel: (281) 362-8431; Email: <a href="mailto:lizheuermann@peoplepc.com">lizheuermann@peoplepc.com</a> Veronica Maiolo Tel: (832) 228-4403; Email: <a href="mailto:sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net">sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net</a>





**Houston Golf Association** 

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

Flat donations in multiples of \$20 \$5,000 donation = 250 guesses \$100 donation = 5 guesses \$20 donation = 1 guess

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



# Pledge Form

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

# Pledge Amount

OR Per Birdie

One Time Donation

Minimum of \$20.00 Minimum of \$0.01 First Name: Last Name:

required for paperless billi E-mail Address\*:

Company Name:

Address:

Suite:

· · City:

Zip Code:

# Guess the Birdies Contest

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

# List Multiple Guesses Here:

Pledge form must be returned to charity inviting your pledge.

American Legion The Woodlands, TX Post 305

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS						
DAY	DATE	EVENT	LOCALE			
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	Change your timepieces!			
Thurs.	Mar. 27	Color Guard Troops The Colors	Cantix Continuing Care Fac. @ 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				
Fri.	Apr. 4	District 7 Convention – Hospitality	Holiday Inn Express, 24888 I-45 North			
Sat.	Apr. 5	District 7 Convention Convenes	Frontage Rd., The Woodlands			
Tues.	Apr. 8	Tour of Wimberly Valley Winery	206 Main Street, Old Town Spring,			
			Carpool From Methodome @ 11:00 AM			
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			
Sat./Su	un. Apr. 26	Second Division Convention	Post 521, 221 Preston Avenue,			
	and Apr. 27		Pasadena, Texas			

POST (	<u>E-MAIL</u>					
Position	Name	Tel. Number				
COMMANDER:	Pete Koch	(936) 273-3588	petekoch76@gmail.com			
FIRST VICE CMDR:	<b>Emery Heuermann</b>	(281) 362-8431	emeryheuermann@charter.net			
SECOND VICE CMDR:	Mickey Fussell	(281) 367-7115	hmf1deer@gmail.com			
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WEBMASTER: Emery Heuermann <u>www.alpost305.org</u> and <u>www.mypost.org</u>

**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.