



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305
“THE WOODLANDS POST”
THE BUGLE



MAY 2014

VOLUME 10; ISSUE 5

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’,
 With the election of officers for 2014-2015 almost here, we are looking for a few good men and women who are in good standing in Post 305, hence eligible to be elected.

On April 17, the Nominating Committee was due to put forth its slate of candidates for the 12 officership positions, and seeking any other nominations from among the membership. However, due to circumstances not under the control of the Committee, no ready slate was available to be presented. Therefore, Acting Commander Emery Heuermann (and a Nominating Committee member) attempted to create a slate by calling for nominations from the floor – one position at a time. Everett Ison, Judge Advocate, refereed the procedure, and the results are shown in the box to the right. You will note that only nine names are there and all but one

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2014-2015

Commander: Pete Koch*	1st Vice Commander: (open)
2nd Vice Commander: Mickey Fussell*	Adjutant: Pickens Jones*
Finance Officer: Jim Bolin	Judge Advocate: Everett Ison*
Historian: Win Salter*	Chaplain: Victoria Glover*
Sergeant-At-Arms: (open)	Service Officer: Dayton Denton*
Executive Committee Members-At-Large:	
	Position One: Carl Smith*
	Position Two: (open)

(*) = incumbent

is the current incumbent. There are three open positions to be filled on or before the May meeting, as the Committee continues its work, seeking younger, new blood to add fresh ideas. I would like to thank the Nominating Committee for its work, though it is still ongoing (**Pickens Jones, Emery Heuermann** and **Kim Biggerstaff**).

To be nominated from the floor by a supporter, you must be present at the May meeting or have a letter of acceptance attesting to your willingness to serve, filed with the Post Adjutant prior to the meeting. Members must be present to vote and be “in good standing” with all dues paid. Elected officers must have a DD-214 Form (or other service documentation) available for the Adjutant after installation. There is pertinent information there which needs to be sent to the Department of Texas.

Please contact a Nominating Committee member if you

should wish to help out. *I am sure the present and past officers would work closely with you to teach you the ropes.* If filling an open position and thus being on the Executive Committee does not entice you, consider alternatively volunteering as an assistant to any officer who could use the help or find a place on a Standing Committee. Assistants become trained by doing and are more qualified to serve as officers in the following year. The incoming Commander will be appointing assistants as needed and also Committee chairpersons. And, if you still can stand to march, wield a rifle or carry a flag, the Color Guard is another place for you.

During this next year, Post and District trainers will be conducting training sessions for future Post officers who would like to step up and help our organization. We all joined the American Legion to help our brothers and sisters in arms and need to become actively

involved in the running of this Post.

The Installation Ceremony for the newly elected will be held on June 19, to swear them in and to present them to the assembled members. The 7th District Commander, Ed Jarvis, will be asked to preside. A special meeting will be held after the election and prior to the Installation Ceremony with the new and old officers to develop a business plan for the year 2015. This will include the goals and vision of the incoming Commander for 2014-2015, the committees that he selects to be working next year and various other subjects necessary for the proper and efficient running of the Post. The new administration will also conduct an annual financial and records audit and an inventory of assets to assure the Post is in compliance with all requirements.

If you have not paid your dues, your name is "in suspension" and at risk of losing your membership. If so, you need to take care of it ASAP! Do not create a gap in your membership and have to apply all over again. The first renewal reminders for 2015 will be mailed soon after June 30, and I would not like to see your membership broken with time as a Legionnaire.

The District 7 Spring Convention was hosted by our Post for the first time in a long time. It was held at the Holiday Inn Express on I-45 North on April 5th. There was a hospitality suite available on the evening of the 4th for all to come and meet members of other Posts, District officers and a few Department VIP's. Our welcoming speaker was Amy



Milstead, the President of Milstead Auto Repair and current President of the Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce. John McKinney, Department Vice Commander; Butch Sparks, National Executive Committee Alternate; and Fred Rogers, Department Training Officer were front and center too. The District 7 Commander, Ed Jarvis, presided over the Convention. Approximately 70 members from the Posts of the District attended. Post 305 won the "booze wagon" by a drawing and the Travelling Trophy by ballcap count. Fred Rogers, the Department Training Officer won the rifle raffle.

I am developing a "lessons learned" paper out of this Convention which I expect to share with other Posts that will, in the future, be hosting conventions for their District or Division. There are three more local conventions planned for this year, as follows:

~ Second Division Convention was held at Post 521 in Pasadena. The dates were April 26-27, 2014.

~ Department of Texas Convention to be held in McAllen from July 9 through the 13th.

~ District 7 Fall Convention to be held at Huntsville Post 95. Particulars to follow.

If you plan on attending the Department or the District conventions, please get your name into the Adjutant as soon as possible so we can submit the necessary paperwork.

We held a successful semi-annual rummage sale on April 18th and 19th. Particulars of the sale are described elsewhere herein. Our thanks go to Jim Bolin and Mickey Fussell, as well as the Auxiliary Unit for an excellent sale.

In closing, remember to pray for our troops and their safety in their ongoing effort to protect our country. Our next meeting will be at 7 PM on May 20th at the South County Community Center.

For God and Country --

Pete Koch

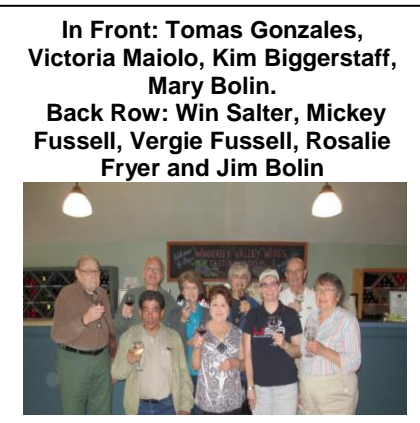
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(April 17, 2014)

The Post Membership Meeting was convened at 7:05 p.m. in the prescribed manner and a quorum was determined. **First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann**, acting in place of the absent **Commander Pete Koch**, then asked for approval of the minutes of the last meeting. After approving the Membership Meeting minutes, **Judge Advocate Everett Ison** moved that a pending motion by the Executive Committee be approved. The approved motion had been that Post 305 absorb any losses the Auxiliary Unit may have incurred by helping host the District Convention. **Acting Commander Heuermann** then asked for the Finance Officer's report. **Finance Officer Kimberley Biggerstaff** reviewed the Financial Report which had

previously been distributed to the membership. The General Fund totaled \$17,287.98; the Allocated Fund has \$22,885.49; a total bankroll of \$40,173.47 as of the end of March. The Finance Officer then discussed the budget for the quarter ending March 31st. The Post has spent \$1,434.00 more than it has received so far this year, which ends on June 30.

As **First Vice Commander, Heuermann** then reported on the number of members that have renewed or have joined for this year: 300 members, toward a goal of 322 for 93% of the goal. He then called for the report of the **Second Vice Commander, Mickey Fussell**. He reported that nine members of the Post and Unit went on the wine tasting outing, the most ever on a daytrip in recent history! Everyone enjoyed the outing, the libations and were ready to go again.



Mickey has scheduled a trip to Coushatta Casino Resort for Wednesday June 11th. He reminded everyone that the bus leaves at 8:00 AM from the terminal of First Class Tours off of FM 1960 E. Reservations for the trip are required and must be made at least seven days in advance.

Mickey reminded the membership that the rummage sale is on for the next two days, and

asked the members to sign up for a time to help out during the sale. He also noted that the Post's rifle raffle during the Convention netted \$660, significantly more than the previous Convention when the results were around \$150. Congratulations go to **Mickey** for setting two records during the same month, one for the wine tasting outing and the other for the rifle raffle which he managed.

Historian Win Salter reported that he is working on the two volumes that are going to be submitted to the Department Convention, recording and depicting the activities of the Post during the year July 2013 to June 2014. He needs to get some pictures of some of the members. So, if you read this and haven't had your picture taken by Win, please come to a meeting where he can shoot you – a photo-op.

Service Officer Dayton Denton urged everyone to get a VA card. To get a card you do not have to pass any Means Test. Every veteran should have a VA card, because no matter who you are, it may come in handy someday. The Means Test is always changing and your life is always changing, and some day you may be poor enough to pass the Means Test. **Dayton** then discussed the status of the Boy's State recruiting by noting that he had secured sufficient funds to send 19 boys to Austin. That is a new record for the Post, and **Dayton** is aiming for a small bus load for next year. If you are able to help, the cost of sending a boy to Boy's State is \$275. All of the boys, except four for which we budgeted, were financed by

donations from individuals or schools.

Next, **Dayton** reminded the membership that **Steve McKinsey** is charged with delivering donated items that we collect to the DeBakey VA Hospital. He is taking the ball caps that were collected at the District Convention to the hospital at the end of this week. By-the-way, the Post won the Traveling Trophy for donating the most ball caps (385) at the Convention, and the total for all Posts was 624, which will be going to the hospital.

Under old business, **Acting Commander Heuermann**, as Chairman of the newly-formed Investment Subcommittee, suggested that the Subcommittee be given a chance to meet with such outside advisors as it may select and develop conclusions about investments. Reports will be made at least monthly to the Executive Committee and the membership. This was in reaction to "too many cooks trying to get in the kitchen" and offer investment advice or advisors.

Under New Business, the Acting Commander called on himself as a Nominating Committee spokesman to present the Nominating Committee's incomplete slate of 12 officer candidates for the May election and asked for nominations from the floor for all positions on the ballot. The following members in good standing are tentatively on the ballot for the May elections. Additional nominations will be invited at the May meeting prior to the election.

Peter Koch: Commander;
Mickey Fussell: 2nd Vice Cdr.;
Pickens Jones: Adjutant;
Jim Bolin: Finance Officer;

Dayton Denton:Service Officer
Everett Ison: Judge Advocate;
Win Salter: Historian;
Victoria Glover: Chaplain;
Carl Smith: Exec. At Large (1)

Still open positions are those of First Vice Commander, Sergeant-At-Arms, and Executive Committeeman-At-Large,

The Vice Commander turned to "For-the-Good-of-the-Legion": Memorial Day recognition events in which the Post and Unit might participate include the pageantry at the Houston National Cemetery and a ceremony at Forest Park Cemetery in The Woodlands. The Post will as usual stream the colors at the VA cemetery and lay a wreath.

There being no further business to come before the Membership Meeting, it was closed in the prescribed manner. The membership then lined up in the chow line to participate in a light supper of sandwiches, sides, dips and desserts.



VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

VIETNAM WALL ON MEMORIAL DAY

The first name that will be read at the ceremony during Memorial Day weekend is that of Evander Earl Andrews. A small-town boy, he had left his parents' home in central Maine, joined the Air Force, and on Oct. 10, 2001, became the first military person reported killed in the post 9/11 wars in Iraq and

Afghanistan. His mother, Mary, 71, said on April 4th that she never thought his death would be followed by 6,700 more. On May 24th, Andrews' name and the names of the others killed in the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will be read aloud chronologically for the first time in a tribute at the Vietnam Wall, according to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The ceremony will open at 9:00 AM on the east knoll of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the reading will run from about 10:00 AM to about 5:40 PM, a spokesman for the Fund said. Those interested in reading names registered in mid-April. Those participating have been given 15 names to read each.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at the National Mall in Washington, D.C

"Last month was the first month that no American was killed in Afghanistan" since the start of the war there, said Jan Scruggs, president of the Fund

and the creator of the memorial and its wall. "It just seemed like the time was right to do this," he said. "And the Vietnam veterans are the ones who have to do this. We're not going to let happen to these people what happened to us. This will provide them some recognition," he said. "This will be a way for the nation to honor the war dead." The event is sponsored by, among others, the Memorial Fund, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and the American Gold Star Mothers of America. The names will include in-theater hostile and non-hostile deaths, the Fund said. Andrews, for example, was reportedly killed in Qatar in a forklift truck accident while building a runway. He was an Air Force Master Sergeant.

[Source: The Washington Post | Michael E. Ruane | 8 Apr 2014 ++]

DEDICATION OF TEXAS VIETNAM VETERANS MONUMENT

The dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Monument at the Texas Capitol on March 29th highlighted the pain, pride and solidarity of those who put their lives on the line in an unpopular conflict. "They fought, they bled, all too often they died for their country. When they came home, there wasn't any parades. There weren't any picnics. Instead they were treated with indifference or, even worse, with outright scorn," said Governor Rick Perry. Perry said the bronze sculpture of an infantry patrol, unveiled before a throng of veterans, will "stand as a declaration that in Texas, we understand how blessed we are to have warriors ready to step forward and draw a line between us and those who

would do harm to our citizens.” He also noted “the many Vietnamese nationals who fought alongside us throughout that war.” Perry, an Air Force veteran who served between 1972 and 1977 flying C-130 tactical airlift in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East, formally accepted the monument on the State's behalf from Robert Floyd, chairman of a committee composed of Vietnam veterans that raised money for the \$2.2 million monument and oversaw its production. State Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, a McAllen Democrat, who co-sponsored the monument authorization legislation with Representative Wayne Smith (R-Baytown), a fellow Vietnam veteran, said that when the monument was unveiled, I felt chills in my body. “Welcome home, and God bless you all,” Hinojosa told the crowd. He recalled his Marine squad, that included people from all around the country, including, he said with fond amusement, “two hillbillies from West Virginia who could make some moonshine.” They came from all walks of life but became a family willing to die for each other, their country and their way of life, Hinojosa said.

Vietnam Veterans Monument In Austin



EVENT BULLETIN BOARD

WHAT ~ WHEN ~ WHERE

Monday, May 26; Memorial Day Ceremony: The Post and Auxiliary will participate in the memorial pageantry at the Houston National Cemetery, trooping the colors and laying a wreath. You can participate or be an observer. But, get there early! Details at the May membership meeting.

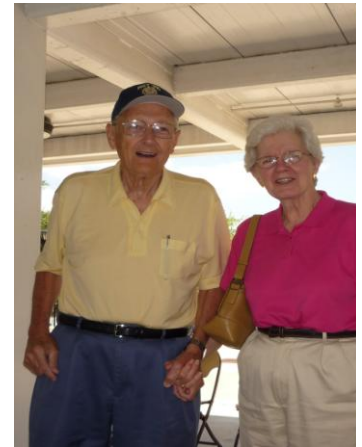
Wednesday, June 11; Coushatta Casino Resort: Another daytrip to the slots! Make your bus reservation by calling First Class Tours (281) 590-8800 no later than June 3. The bus departs the terminal at 310 FM 1960 (east of I-45) at 8:00 AM and will return you to the same location around 8:00 PM. Any questions? Call Mickey Fussell at (281) 367-7115.

Friday, July 4; The 4th of July Parade: It's time again to spiff up the “float” and be lookin’ good for The Woodlands July Fourth Parade. We need a larger turn-out; more trailer riders, walking flag distributors, banner carriers in matching uniforms, and of course the Color Guard.

IN MEMORIAM

John A. Nanninga, a Post 305 member since 2005, died at his home just five months after his wife of 60 years, Annice, predeceased him. John was an active member of the Post, had served as Finance Officer and was always a source of Legion lore and protocol, having been a Legionnaire for 29 years. John, at 6’-6” tried to join the Army during WWII, but was denied that privilege due to his height. Ironically, a few years later he was drafted into the Army as the UN “police action” heated up in Korea. In addition to his Legion allegiance, John was a member of the Korean War Veterans Association. He was also on the Sterling Ridge Village Design Review Committee and a Charter

John and Annice Nanninga



Member of the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas.

As a pastime, he created a steel wall in his garage using over 170 license plates, all from 100 vehicles – cars, trailers, motorcycles and one limousine – the family owned.

His death leaves Thom, Beth and Ann to continue to grieve for both of their parents, together with their spouses; Karen, Douglas and Paul. John and Annice are together again and that should be some comfort. We of the Post will all miss our tall and slender comrade!

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS

Auxiliary President Dayna Salter



The District 7 Spring Convention was a huge success, and I thank all the Unit 305 members who took part in the event. We received many compliments on our organization and hospitality. We will be capturing lessons learned and documenting what we did for future conventions. The other good news is that the whole affair will cost the Unit nothing. The Post has agreed to make us whole in our expenses. Thank you Post 305!

The next big order of business for the Unit is elections. Our May meeting will be when elections for the 2014-15 term of office will be held. Installation of the new officers will take place at the June meeting.

The 2014-15 slate of candidates are: **Jenny Hamann** - President; **Vergie Fussell**- VP; **Sandie Holzinger** – Secretary; **Dayna Salter**- Treasurer; **Geri Mulvihill**- Chaplain; **Stephanie Marshall** –

Historian; **Annie Smith** - Sgt-at-Arms and Members-At-Large: **Mary Bolin**, **Liz Heuerman**, **Veronica Maiolo**. I want to thank those willing to run and serve. I will remain active as treasurer and to help Jenny in her new role.

Thanks to all who reported their hours and dollars for last year. I finished the report and the narratives, and we will see how we do at the Department Convention in July in McAllen. The hotels are filling up so if you want to drive to McAllen and attend this convention, please let me know.

The Post 305 April Rummage Sale was a successful fundraiser again this year with the added bonus of the Unit's jewelry table. We'll see what our take will be once all the expenses have cleared.

With May here, we have a several events planned. It will be Poppy Weekend this coming Memorial Day weekend. Rosalie will be looking for volunteers to distribute poppies and collect donations. Also we will be participating in the annual ceremony at the Houston National Cemetery on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th. We will finalize plans at our meeting on May 15th. If you cannot make the meeting, please contact one of us by email below for the latest news on the events.

At the April meeting, interest in attending a Friday afternoon movie

matinee, *The Other Woman*, was expressed. **Annie Smith** will be organizing that outing which will include lunch as well. **The date is Friday, May 9th**. For more information contact Annie at the number in the box below.

Our next meeting is May 15th and the supper theme will be "Cinco de Mayo". We will have Taco Salad and all the accompanying side dishes for a festive feast. Veronica will be calling around to coordinate the sides.

Happy Mother's Day!
– Dayna Salter



District 7 Convention- l to r: Veronica Maiolo, Joan Charest, Vergie Fussell, Mary Bolin and Annie Smith



Diana King, ALA Past Dept President and Leigh-Anne Stewart, District 7 President

2013-14 AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT: Dayna Salter; Tel: (281) 229-1365; E-mail: dayna.salter@ymail.com
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PARLIAMENTARIAN: Rosalie Fryer; Tel: (936) 520-8895; E-mail: rcfryer@charter.net
SGT-AT-ARMS: Annie Smith; Tel: (281) 757-3967
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

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

DAY	DATE	EVENT	LOCALE
Mon.	May 12	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	May 15	Membership Meetings (Elections)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Sat.	May 17	Armed Forces Day	
Mon.	May 19 & 23	Poppy Drive	Contact Rosalie for opportunity to help.
Mon.	May 26	Memorial Day Observances	Houston National Cemetery, Veterans Memorial Drive (Houston) and Forest Park Cemetery (The Woodlands)
Sat.	June 14	Flag Day	
Sun.	June 15	Fathers Day	
Mon.	June 16	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	June 19	Flag Disposal Ceremony	South County Community Ctr. @ 6:15 PM
Thur.	June 19	Membership Meetings (Installations)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	July 4	Woodlands Fourth-of-July Parade	Start: Methadome Parking Lot @ 8:00 AM
Wed.	July 9 to	Department Convention	Renaissance Casa de Palmas Hotel,
	Sun. July 13		McAllen, TX
Mon.	July 14	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	July 17	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Mon.	Aug. 18	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Aug. 21	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Aug. 22 to	National Convention	Charlotte, NC
	Thur. Aug. 28		
Thur.	Sept. 11	Patriots Day (9/11 Remembrance)	

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:		
Position 1:	Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714
Position 2:	(OPEN)	

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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.