

AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 "THE WOODLANDS POST" THE BUGLE



JUNE 2014

VOLUME 10; ISSUE 6

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

Post Commander Pete Koch



COMMANDERS CORNER

Dear Legionnaires:

Displayed to the right are your officers for 2014-2015, and they are to be installed at the June 19th meeting by **District Com**mander Ed Jarvis. If you look closely, you will note that the Nominating Committee could not find eligible and willing candidates for two positions -First Vice Commander and Sergeant-At-Arms. The Committee had to resort to nominations from the floor at the May meeting, but to no avail. All of the names you see there are either last year's incumbents or officers who just changed jobs. So much for my strong suggestion to include at least a couple of fresh faces with fewer wrinkles and a longer life expectancy! So be it!

Note that the officer corps will lose its Legionnaire-of-the-Year, **Kim Biggerstaff**, and that **Jim Bolin** will take over as Finance Officer. Kim is not going away but will continue to represent the Post up the line, as well as helping to train you and tote the colors as may be requested. Jim will continue as Captain of the Color Guard. After installation, I will be appointing an Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms and an Assistant Chaplain, acceptable to Chaplain Glover. Thus, we will be starting the new year in July at reduced strength, until volunteers come forth for the open positions. I thank the Nominating Committee for its work and expect we will find good candidates for the two open positions.

That said, you are reminded that a Flag Disposal Ceremony is scheduled in advance of the June meeting starting at 6:30 PM. Participants be there by 6:00 PM to set up the square. **District Commander Jarvis** will officiate again and Maestro Heuermann will be directing the field music. We have a quantity of worn, torn, faded, frayed and aged flags to be properly disposed of, but if yours has reached retirement age, bring it along. The location is, as usual, the sunset side of the Community Center, weather permitting.

Unlike last year, I am going to move fast with the selection of Standing Committees and one Special Committee. As I see it, OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2014-2015 Commander: Peter Koch Vice Commanders: First: (Open) Second: Mickey Fussell Adjutant: Pickens Jones Finance Officer: Jim Bolin Judge Advocate: Everett Ison Sergeant-At-Arms: (Open) Historian: Win Salter Chaplain: Victoria Glover Service Officer: Dayton Denton Executive Committee

Members-At-Large: Position One: Carl Smith Position Two: Emery Heuermann

there are seven Standing Committees warranted, with some hope they can be staffed, plus an Audit Committee. The lucky seven are: ~Membership Committee Chair – (To be selected) ~Finance Committee -Chair – Jim Bolin. ~Post Activities Committee -Chair – Mickey Fussell ~Americanism Committee -Chair - (To be selected) ~Veterans Affairs and Service Committee -Chair – **Dayton Denton** ~Public Relations Committee -Chair - Win Salter ~Visiting and Welfare Comm. -Chair – Victoria Glover (Selection of chairmen is subject to acceptance by the individual.)

Dues, your ticket to "good standing", must be paid for the year just ending (2014) by June

30 or you have forfeited your Legion membership. If you have not paid, you are "in suspension" and facing loss of membership. At last count, we had 302 paid up toward a goal of 322. That's failure and it will not happen next year! If you are writing a \$31 check for 2014, write another for 2015, which will not stop those pesky reminders but will give you a measure of sheer joy.

Our colorful Color Guard participated in the memorial service for member John Nanninga, which also was attended by Everett Ison, Harlen Thornhill, Win Salter, Jerry Mulvihill, Ed Jarvis and your Commander. Who did I forget? The Color Guard needs to be beefed up, not that its four-member rank will change, but that it needs more trained alternates, and at times we may need to field two ranks. We have the equipment but not the additional four members who can carry a flag or handle a parade rifle. Anyone interested, step forward. Don't worry about the uniform. That's doable, and after the bright sun and high wind of the other day, we may need to switch summer headgear to the Legion's "Bush Hat" or white helmet liners.

As high schools are ending the year, it's the time to select outstanding JROTC cadets for awards. In May, Kim Biggerstaff made Legion medal presentations to selected cadets at Oak Ridge High School, Andy Dekaney High School and Pine Forest High School. Those awards were for Scholastic Excellence and Military Excellence.

The Department of Texas Convention will take place in McAllen on July 9th to 13th. Post and Unit delegates have been selected, but any member in good standing may attend. This is a good chance to learn what goes on behind the scenes and to pick up on the Department's focus and goals for 2015 – which I predict will feature "membership' and "training".

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 June 19th at the South County Community Center, with the Flag Disposal Ceremony in advance.

For God and Country ----Pete Koch

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (May 15, 2014)

Prior to the meeting, JoAnne Crawford, the lead volunteer at DeBakey VA Medical Center, spoke to the combined Post and Auxiliary. She thanks us for sending her over 600 baseball caps. She also made clear that the VA hospital does not furnish any personal items for its patients, so the ones we send are much appreciated. Our representative to the hospital is Steve McKinney, and the Post honored him with a Certificate of Appreciation, while Mrs. Crawford looked on.

The Post Membership Meeting was convened at 7:35 p.m. in the prescribed manner and a quorum was determined. **Commander Pete Koch**, conducted a Drape the Charter Ceremony in reflection of the passing of Post member John Nanninga. The minutes of the last Post and Executive Committee meetings were approved, the latter containing a motion to let the Certificate of Deposit pay out when due on June 30. 2014, and the funds there be transferred to a new investment account to be set up. Temporarily, those monies are to be held as cash until an investment can be agreed. Kim Biggerstaff, Finance Officer, gave the Financial Report summary, as follows: General Fund Total: \$16,355.69; Allocated Fund: \$22,886.45; giving a total of \$39,242.14. The reason for the large transactions this month is because we paid for Boys State and for the liability insurance premium and received money from Boy's State donations, the rummage sale and the rifle raffle.

Next, First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann concluded the election cycle by first confirming there were no competing challenges to the slate of candidates developed at the last meeting. The only change, an addition, was that Emerv Heuermann decided to run for the open At-Large position and won. Everett Ison moved that the Adjutant cast one vote for all unopposed officers for 2014-2015, and with that the election was concluded.

Second Vice Commander, Mickey Fussell 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. He also reported that everything was falling into place for the 4th of July Parade. He pleaded for a greater turnout and more riders for the float. All members of the Post and Unit are to be at the First Methodist Church by 9:00 AM on the Fourth for an invigorating ride on the trailer.

Chaplain Victoria Glover reminded the membership that a memorial ceremony for John Nanninga will take place on May 20th at 1:30 PM at The Woodlands Town Green Park. Service Officer Dayton stated that Joe Hammond has been having regular hospital appointments at Memorial Herman and Emery Heuermann has been driving him to them. He is also trying to get a package together to distribute at the Chamber meeting which would solicit support from the members in the form of non-cash donations to veterans at the VA hospital. He asked that the present Post members join him or get some other members to come with him to the next meeting. Kim Biggerstaff reported on the Leadership Training that will be conducted in Killeen on July 19-20.

Under New Business, **Emery Heuermann** made a motion to support **Kim Biggerstaff's** representing the Post at the Department Convention with \$200 to help defray expenses. The motion carried. **Jim Bolin** made a motion that the Post give the Auxiliary 15% of the net profit from the Rummage Sale. The motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Membership Meeting, it was closed in the prescribed manner. The membership then moved on to the eating area to partake of selfmade taco salads, followed by a large selection of desserts.



VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

THE VA HOSPITAL SCANDAL

Bugle readers might expect that this column would blast the VA and its medical care administrators for the utterly shocking revelations of late. But, if you have access to a TV or a newspaper, you are well aware of what has happened and what our CIC is going to do to immediately correct the problem! So, we are not going to compete with CNN or ABC or FOX here. We are offering some stories by others below.

VFW SEEKS YOUR VA EXPERIENCE

The VFW wants VA-enrolled veterans to call the toll-free 1-800-VFW-1899 telephone line and tell them if your VA medical facility is properly serving you. According to VFW National Commander Bill Thien, recent allegations about improper care in Arizona, Colorado, Texas and elsewhere has made it difficult to separate truth from conjecture. "Veterans die every day, but veterans dying due to wrong diagnoses, unsterilized equipment or while awaiting treatment is a failure of leadership and management both in Washington and out in the field," he said. "We need to hear real life stories, good or bad, not hearsay. Only then can

we hold VA officials properly accountable for their actions or inactions." The toll-free number was rolled out in 1996 as the VA was transforming from primarily hospital-based а system into integrated an healthcare system that now includes 820 outpatient clinics that serve veterans closer to where they actually reside. Call 1-800-VFW-1899 to voice your VA healthcare experiences. VFW Action Corps [Source: Weekly, May 9, 2014 ++]

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS

Retiree Appreciation Davs (RADs) are designed with you in mind. They're a great source of the latest information for retirees and family members in your area. RADs vary from military installation to installation, but, in general, they provide an opportunity to renew acquaintances, listen to guest speakers, renew ID Cards, get medical checkups, and various other services. Some RADs include special events such as dinners or golf tournaments. Due to budget constraints, some RADs may be cancelled or rescheduled. Also, scheduled appearances of DFAS representatives may not be possible. If you plan to travel long distances to attend a RAD, before leaving home, call the sponsoring Retirement Services Officer (RSO) to ensure the RAD will held as scheduled and, if applicable, whether or not DFAS representatives will be available. For more information, call the RSO sponsoring the RAD. An up-to-date RAD list is always available online at http://www.hostmtb.org/RADLIS T-2014.html. [Source: RAD List Manager | Milton Bell | 12 May 2014 ++]

MARINE CORPS SERGEANT MAJOR SAYS "SUCK IT UP!"

Top military leaders routinely say that rank-and-file troops won't mind too much if their pay and benefits are cut. The most stunning example came when Marine Corps' the senior enlisted leader recently testified before Congress that troops might welcome actually reduced compensation. "They don't want an easy life," Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Mike Barrett told lawmakers at an April 9th hearing. "They want to be tougher people." Speculation about what troops really want or think about pay and benefits may end soon as experts mount a first-of-its-kind, forcewide survey gauging service members' views about their compensation. By the end of May, hundreds of thousands of active-duty troops, reservists and retirees will receive email invitations to take a survey launched by the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, which Congress convened last year to thornv tackle the issues involved in the Pentagon's efforts to reduce its personnel costs.

Military leaders are looking for ways to do that without harming recruitment and retention. The top brass say personnel costs are growing at an unsustainable rate after years of generous pay raises and other perks that Congress bestowed on the force while it was fighting two long wars. In March, the Pentagon proposed measures cost-saving that included capping troops' pay raises, scaling back housing allowances, launching new Tricare fees and eliminating commissary subsidies at most domestic installations, which

would raise prices in the stores. The survey aims to identify which pays and benefits are valued most by service members. It may also identify benefits that are inefficient because their cost to the exceeds government their perceived value by troops. "To truly understand the service members' preferences and priorities with regard to compensation will allow us to make decisions that will protect the quality of life of the service members," said Jamie Graybeal, a spokesman for the Commission. "As a result of this survey, we will be able to understand not simply whether or not service members want more pay, but how the various elements of the compensation package relate to each other, which ones are valued more, which ones are valued less," Graybeal said. [Source: . NavyTimes | Andrew Tilghman | May 13 2014 ++]

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 – Steve Toth 832-562-2883 Dist. 16 – Brandon Creighton 936-539-0028 Dist. 126 – Patricia Harless

DECORATION DAY ~ 2014

Today, in rural America are found many small abandoned farms and homesteads, with only a tumbled down house or

perhaps a foundation. And on those properties - many of them - exist private burying grounds, often just a few family graves and crude markers. Among these graves lie the remains of American patriots and unsung heroes - men who fought America's wars - perhaps domestic: probably foreign. These were small town citizens - once well known locally for their service in life, but not forgotten in death. Some have names long since cast in bronze with those of their compatriots on a town square monument or plaque, remembered by townsfolk generations later. So remembered and respected that each of those scattered graves have small American flags above them, thanks to the neighbors or a town clerk or a church elder or a scout troop. If you drive around these roads less travelled, you will see many single flags among the overgrown lots every year at this time. They are long gone but not forgotten!

HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Post 305 and its Auxiliary Unit paid tribute to our fallen warriors again this year by participating in the memorial services at the National Cemetery on Memorial Day. The Color Guard advanced the colors, staffed by Jim Bolin,



Victoria Glover, Kim Biggerstaff and Phil Owens, and four Unit members placed our wreath. The skies were overcast with a

comfortable breeze – a fine day weatherwise. Several other Post and Auxiliary members were in attendance. Meanwhile, another contingent of members took part in the Memorial Day services at Woodlands' Forest Park Cemetery, including Commander Koch.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON GROWING OLDER

~Your kids are becoming you and you don't like them; but your grandchildren are perfect!

~Going out is good; but coming home is better!

~You forget names; but that's OK, because other people forgot they even knew you!!!

~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything; especially golf!

~The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".

~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.

~You tend to use more fourletter words; like "What?" and "When?" and "Whar?"

~Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere!!!.

~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!

~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

~Everybody whispers now!

~You have three sizes of clothes in your closet; two of which you will never wear again!

But "Old" is good in some things: Old songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!

BUT THERE ARE LESSONS LEARNED WITH AGE

~I've learned that the worse thing in life to be without is love, but toilet paper comes in a close second!

~I've learned that wearing anything too small is a sure way to ruin my day!

~I've learned that when you are at the Post picnic you don't complain about what you're eating, 'cause the person sitting next to you might have prepared it!

~I've learned that even with the lights out, I can still find the cashews in the mixed nuts!

~I've learned not to confuse the green tube of Ben-Gay with the green tube of hemorrhoidal ointment!

~I've learned that when your wife simply answers "Nothing" when you ask her what's wrong, you're in deep trouble!

~I've learned that after being on a diet for two weeks, all I lose is fourteen days!

~I've learned that when someone asks, "How are you doing?", it's not necessary to give them a full report!

~I've learned that absentminded people get lots of exercise looking for things they can't find!

~I've learned that you should never leave you fork on your plate when you reheat it in the microwave!

~I've learned that if you throw 10 socks in the laundry, only nine will come out!

~I've learned that the shift key on my computer keyboard doesn't always care for capitalization!

EVENT BULLETIN BOARD WHAT ~ WHEN ~ WHERE

<u>Wenesday, June 11; Coushatta Casino Resort:</u> 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.

Saturday, June 14; Flag Day Celebration: Panther Creek Village citizens gather together at Ridgewood Park on Interfaith Way to recognize Flag Day. The Post joins them by instructing youngsters in flag etiquette. Hog dogs and drinks are on the house, and festivities begin at 10:00 AM and end around 1:00 PM. This celebration was a big day for the late John Nanninga. He used to decorate the fence around the swimming pool with a collection of American Flags of the past.

Friday, July 4; The Woodlands Fourth of July Parade: It's time again to spiff up the "float" and be lookin' good for the July Fourth Parade. We need a larger turn-out; more trailer riders, more walking flag distributors, two banner carriers in matching uniforms, and of course the Color Guard. Come to the Methodome parking lot around 8:00 AM and help put the finishing touches on our vehicles!

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS

Auxiliary President Dayna Salter



At the May meeting, the 2014-15 slate of candidates was elected. The new Unit 305 officers beginning with the July meeting will be Jenny Hamann - President; Vergie Fussell- VP; Sandie Holzinger – Secretary; Dayna Salter- Treasurer: Geri Mulvihill-Chaplain: Stephanie Marshall -Historian; Annie Smith - Sgt- at-Members-At-Large: Arms and Marv Bolin. Liz Heuerman. Veronica Maiolo. The new officers will be installed by District 7 President Leigh-Anne Stewart at our June 19th meeting.

My sincere thanks and deep appreciation go to **Jenny Hamann** and the officers for 2014-15 for agreeing to serve the Unit. **Jenny** will be an excellent President, and we should all do what we can to help and support her. I also want to thank the Unit for the support you have shown me over the last $2-\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Our May Memorial Day Poppy Campaign has been a huge success. Congratulations go to **Rosalie Fryer** and her band of poppy distributors for an excellent job! Our unofficial count exceeds \$1,600!

The July Department of Texas Convention is coming up. If you are interested in attending, please let me know before the June meeting. It will be in McAllen this year – a bit of a drive. So far, I will be attending along with **Rosalie Fryer, Jenny Hamann, Geri Mulvihill** and **Mary Lee Mulvihill**.

As I write this, we have just finished participating in the Memorial Day ceremony at the Houston National Cemetery. Once again the Post 305 was among the participants presenting colors and our Unit 305 presented a wreath.



We now need to prepare for another summer patriotic event the July 4th Market Square Parade. Once again Post 305/Unit 305 will have a float, and we are looking forward to a good turnout from all of you. We will meet at 8:00 AM at the Methodist Church parking lot where the parade begins.

Our next meeting is June 19th and the supper theme will be "Summertime is Here! – Salads & Sandwiches". **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the dishes presented.

Happy Flag Day! – Dayna Salter



<u>Above:</u> New ALA recruit Bernice Kmiec with members Geri Mulvihill and Rosalie Fryer at the Memorial Day ceremony.

<u>Below:</u> Post and Unit members await the start of the activities.



2013-14 AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION PRESIDENT: Dayna Salter; Tel: (281) 229-1365; E-mail: dayna.salter@ymail.com VICE PRESIDENT: Vergie Fussell: Tel: (281) 367-7115; E-mail: hmf1deer@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: jm.hamann@yahoo.com 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			
Sun.	June 8 to Fri. June 13	Boys State Coloquium	University	of Texas Campus, Austin			
Mon. Wed.	June 9 June 11	Special Exec. Committee Meetin Daytrip To Casino	Coushatt	unty Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM a Casino Resort, Kinder, puisiana via First Class Tours Bus			
Sat. Sun.	June 14 June 15	Flag Day Picnic at Panther Cree Fathers Day	k Ridgewoo	od Pk, Interfaith Way @ 10:00 AM			
Mon. Thur. Thur. Fri.		Executive Committee Meeting Flag Disposal Ceremony Membership Meetings (Installation Woodlands Fourth-of-July Parad	South Co ons) South Co	unty Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM unty Community Ctr. @ 6:15 PM unty Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM thadome Parking Lot @ 8:00 AM			
Wed.	July 9 to Sun. July 13	Department Convention	Renaissa	nce Casa de Palmas Hotel, cAllen, TX			
Mon.	July 14	Executive Committee Meeting		unty Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM			
Thur.	July 17	Membership Meetings		unty Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM			
Sat.	July 19 to Sun. July 20	Department Leadership Training		ter, 3601 So. W.S.Young Drive, lleen, TX			
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 Remembranc	e)				
POST CONTACT INFORMATION (2014-2015)							
Position		NameTel.	Number_	E-Mail			
COMMANDER:		Pete Koch (93	6) 273-3588	petekoch@gmail.com			
FIRST VICE CMDR: (Open)							
SECO	ND VICE CMD	R: Mickey Fussell (28	31) 367-7115	<u>hmf1deer@gmail.com</u>			

FIRST VICE CMDR:	(Open)						
SECOND VICE CMDR:	Mickey Fussell	(281) 367-7115	hmf1deer@gmail.com				
ADJUTANT:	Pickens Jones	(281) 367-7631	<u>pickensjones@usa.net</u>				
FINANCE OFFICER:	Jim Bolin	(281) 251-2352	jpb20006@sbcglobal.net				
SERVICE OFFICER:	Dayton Denton	(832) 928-6054	whselfstorage1@yahoo.com				
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: (Open)							
ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS: (To be appointed)							
CHAPLAIN:	Victoria Glover	(832) 813- 9415	<u>goldvicgoddess@gmail.com</u>				
ASS'T CHAPLAIN:	(To be appointed)						
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Everett Ison	(281) 298-9524	eison01@comcast.net				
HISTORIAN:	Winfield Salter	(281) 370-1912	flintyeye@gmail.com				
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:							
Position 1:	Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714	<u>c.smith@thewestern</u>				
			systemsinc.com				
Position 2:	Emery Heuermann	(281) 362-8431	emeryheuermann@charter.net				

OTHER INFORMATION:

THE BUGLE BRASS: EDITOR: Jim Bolin; CIRCULATION: Emery Heuermann; AD MANAGER: Win SalterE-MAIL ADDRESS: alpost305tx@gmail.comMAIL: P. O. BOX 9336, THE WOODLANDS, TX 77387WEBMASTER: Emery Heuermannwww.alpost305.orgFACEBOOK MANAGER: Kimberly Biggerstaff

<u>MEETING DAY & PLACE:</u> 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.