



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305

“THE WOODLANDS POST”

THE BUGLE



JULY 2014

VOLUME 10; ISSUE 7

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 were installed at the June 19th meeting. Please join me in congratulating all of the elected officers for the upcoming 2014-2015 year.

I cannot say enough “thank you”s to the Nominating Committee: Emery Heuermann, Pickens Jones, Jim Bolin, and Kimberly Biggerstaff, for a job well done.

In the June Post meeting, we held the Installation Ceremony with **Ed Jarvis**, the 7th District Commander, as Master of Ceremonies. He brought with him the District Chaplain, **Joe Piazza**, and District Sergeant-at-Arms, **Sheila Schulte**, to assist him in the installation. Our thanks go to Ed and his team for taking time out to help us with the swearing in of the new Officers. Prior to the Post

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2014-2015

Commander: Peter Koch
Vice Commanders:
First: (To be elected)
Second: Mickey Fussell
Adjutant: Pickens Jones
Finance Officer: Jim Bolin
Judge Advocate: Everett Ison
Sergeant-At-Arms: (To be elected)
Historian: Win Salter
Chaplain: Victoria Glover
Service Officer: Dayton Denton
Executive Committee Members-At-Large:
Position One: Carl Smith
Position Two: Emery Heuermann

meeting commencing, we held the annual Unserviceable Flag Disposal Ceremony and had approximately 30 veterans and Auxiliary members to witness it. **Ed Jarvis** also performed as Master of Ceremonies at this event.

As you can see from the above list of Officers, we still have two open positions. Over the next few weeks, the Nominating Committee will be contacting as many of you as needed to identify which of you will volunteer to help us in this most important task. As we discussed in the Post Meeting, the running of the Post is performed by all of the members. We all need to work together to keep this as one of the best Posts in District 7.

Don't miss the 4th-of-July Parade on Friday, July 4, at

9:00 AM! Join us as we enjoy watching the 4th-of-July Parade floats, fire engines, horses and others travel through the Town Center and Market Street areas, beginning and ending at The Woodlands United Methodist Church. Don't miss the jugglers, clowns, and live entertainment prior to the 4th-of-July Parade! Post 305 will be entering a float in the parade. If you would like to ride the float, please be at the parking lot of the Woodlands United Methodist Church at Grogans Mill and Lake Woodlands at 7:30 AM.

I would like to take a few moments to discuss membership. We missed our target set for the fiscal year 2013-2014 by only five members. Maintaining our membership is always an ongoing effort. Please do not let your years of service or benefits lapse. Soon you will be receiving your 2015 renewal reminder, and I encourage you to send those in at your earliest convenience. And, think about the “no more dues” status under the Paid-Up-For-Life or PUFL program.

I encourage you to visit the “mylegion.org” and create a log in to find out more about the American Legion. As an individual, you can update your personal information in which we will be able to receive updated e-mail addresses and phone numbers. You can also

use "mylegion.org" to take the American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI) course.

We will still have challenges ahead, and I am confident that we can work together to achieve these goals and also better serve you, our members, our veterans and our community. One way we can do this is to get involved and help by serving on one of the committees. I am sure that we have a committee that you have an interest in. You will be receiving, by e-mail blast, a "Legionnaire Involvement Form" shortly. Please take the time to fill it out to the best of your ability and return it to the Post so we can help find a position for you in this great Post.

As always, we have our general Post meeting the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the South County Community Center on Lake Robbins. Please come by. We are making our meetings more interesting with speakers addressing various subjects of interest to the veterans. Please feel free to suggest a topic you would like to hear. We do have a social hour after the regular meeting where the Post and Auxiliary get together over food prepared by the Auxiliary and discuss whatever comes up. It is a good place for camaraderie with your fellow veterans.

In closing, remember to pray for our troops and their safety in their ongoing efforts to protect our country.

For God and Country,
Pete Koch

My Legion Cap Discount Gift



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(June 19, 2014)

Prior to the meeting, the Post conducted a Dignified Disposal of Flags Ceremony – flags that have been worn out through usage. About 20 people attended plus the Executive Committee, which performed the ceremony.



Commander Pete Koch opened the meeting a few minutes after 7:00 PM in the prescribed manner. A quorum was determined. He then called upon **District Commander Ed Jarvis** to install the newly elected Officers. After the Officers returned to their posts, the Commander discussed the problems of getting and keeping new officers and asked the members to volunteer for the open offices, Sergeant-at-Arms and First Vice Commander and an assistant for the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Chaplain. The Commander then asked the membership who lacked a regulation cap to buy one. In order to facilitate the purchase, Commander Koch offered to donate \$10 and have the Post lend the balance (about \$30) to the member, to be paid back to the Post at \$10 per month. He then discussed the mission of the Post and pleaded with the membership to get involved.

Finance Officer Kim Biggerstaff gave the financial Report. Report summary is as follows:
General Fund \$14,741.06,
Allocated Funds \$22,887.40

giving a total of \$37,628.46. The large payout from last month is due to paying off the debt for the District Convention. The income for the District Convention was accounted for in a past statement. The Finance Officer discussed the finances of the District Convention and noted that the Post's net costs were \$348.10, including covering the Unit's expenses.

Next, **First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann** discussed the motion made to invest \$30,000 in Fidelity's Asset Manager 20% Fund. (See the following article about the specifics of this motion). The motion passed, so now the Post needs to move to form a brokerage account and invest the money.

The Commander reminded everyone that the old Nominating Committee has been re-activated to find candidates for the open positions in the Post. He also mentioned that we will re-start the Welcoming Committee to help new members to meld into the membership.

Second Vice Commander Mickey Fussell reported that the last outing to Coushatta Casino Resort was a total failure with only Mickey to lead our non-existent crowd. Never daunted, he has scheduled the next outing to be early in August without a destination. More information will follow. The Post won the Booze Wagon of liquor which was the subject of a drawing, an event at each District Convention. It currently is intact and consists of ten bottles of likker and grappa. The whole stock will be the prize of a drawing at the July meeting. Tickets will be on

sale at the sign-in table during that meeting. Winner take all.

First Vice Commander Heuermann then discussed how easy it is to send information about the Post to a friend by using Facebook. Hopefully this will encourage the friend to looking into joining the Post and walking off with ten bottles of spirits.

Service Office Dayton Denton noted that the orientation meeting for the boys going to Boy's State has been virtually non-existent. In view of this, **Dayton** has decided to conduct the briefing himself. It will be at the South County Community Center. He then reviewed the top three programs he is involved with, asking for help.

Under **Old Business**, the Commander presented **Dayton** with a plaque as the winner of the 2014 Chili Cook-off Contest last January.

Under **New Business**, District **Commander Jarvis** presented the Traveling Trophy plaque to the Post until the Fall for donating the most baseball caps at the Spring District Convention.

Under **For the Good of the Legion**, Post member **Tomas Gonzales** told of his son, Marine Corps Squad Leader Marty, who suffered a broken back and broken arm caused by an explosion during the Second Battle of Fallujah in 2004, and has been getting help for his back pain. He also is a victim of PTSD. As a Wounded Warrior volunteer, he is finding many opportunities as a mentor and counselor, helping other veteran returnees to deal with whatever haunts them.

There being no further business to come before the Post, the meeting was adjourned in the specified manner.

IT'S HAPPENED! WE WILL SOON BE INVESTED

After many months of grumbling about how little interest the Post was earning on its reserve funds, the Executive Committee acted on a motion made by **Emery Heuermann** and formed an Investment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee. Within weeks following that, it was agreed to not renew a bank CD due to mature on June 30, 2014, and instead use the funds to open an investment account with an on-line brokerage. Fast forward to the June meeting, where **Subcommittee Chairman Emery Heuermann** announced the Subcommittee's plan, to wit: the Post will invest initially \$30,000 in Fidelity's "Asset Manager 20% Fund" (symbol: FASIX), which is comprised of three asset classes. They are (1) about 20% in the stock (equity) class; (2) about 50% in the bond class; and (3) about 30% in the short-term bond/money market class.

Since 2010, when this fund climbed out of the hole caused by the housing crash and the recession, the three-year annualized return on investment has been 4.75%, and the latest one-year gain was 5.98%. It is a conservative, diversified holding. This initial investment is estimated to earn about \$1,700 per year. That compares to the current income on the same amount of about \$10 a year. This plan applies all of our CD funds, all of the money-market account and about \$7,100 of the General Fund to reach \$30,000, leaving

about \$7,600 in the General Fund, enough to live on month-to-month under our current style.

FAST TRAIN TO DALLAS

If you are making a trip to Dallas in the future – after 2021 -- you can expect I-45 traffic delays, caused by population growth and congestion, to increase your travel time by two or three hours. But, if a developer and promoter called Texas Central Railway succeeds with its high-speed rail plan, the Houston/Dallas trip could take only 90 minutes. Of course, you could fly on Southwest, but on a door-to-door basis, the high-speed rail option will be faster.

The Texas Transportation Commission has formed a project-dedicated High-Speed Rail Commission and, in March, appointed six commissioners. (Last January, Bill Meadows of Fort Worth was appointed as Chairman.) It's job is to oversee and advise Texas Central Railway, which is in partnership with Central Japan Railway, as it develops a new rail line between downtown Houston and downtown Dallas, with a possible extension to Arlington and Fort Worth.

You may recall an earlier high-speed rail scheme by a private developer, "Texas TGV", who spent \$70 million before opposition by Southwest Airlines and other "anti's" halted the project. Such opposition could be mounted again, but so far, it has not, and civic leaders of the terminal cities and counties are enthused about the project.

The concept was derived by former CIA officer Richard Lawless, who had been posted

in Tokyo in the 1980's and embraced the fast-train concept as exemplified by the CJR's Shinkansen "bullet train".



Lawless founded and is CEO of Texas Central Railway. Although Japan developed the first high-speed rail line (Tokyo to Osaka; 300 miles), later systems are operating in France, Germany, Spain and a few other nations. AMTRAK's, east coast, Acela Express service between Washington and Boston does not qualify as "high-speed". It takes seven hours to run the 400-mile line. The TRC plan will use the newest Japanese technology which today has a normal speed of 220 MPH.

Lawless spent time assessing all likely two-city pairs throughout the US, looking for the most likely pair in terms of rider attraction and development potential. With a staggering population growth potential, flat rural terrain, a business-friendly atmosphere and a 240-mile run, the Houston-Dallas pair was deemed most likely to succeed. Further, the plan is to finance the \$10 billion project through private investment. Today, 50,000 Texans make the Houston-Dallas trip via I-45 more than once a week. Air travel between those cities has been relatively flat over the past 20 years.

Current and near-term activity is to evaluate alternative routes and to conduct the federally-mandated environmental impact assessment and statement.



VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

STUDENT LOAN COMPANY PENALIZED FOR VIOLATING GI's RIGHTS

Formed in 1972 as a US government agency, the Student Loan Marketing Association became a private corporation in 2004, with today over a dozen affiliates. Over that period, its name transitioned through "SLM Corporation" to "Sallie Mae". The Justice Department has announced an enforcement action against Sallie Mae, the nation's largest servicer of student loans. Sallie Mae was found to be systematically violating the legal rights of U.S. service members. Sallie Mae has been ordered to pay \$96.6 million in restitution and penalties. Service members who have an issue with their student loan servicer should submit a complaint to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). To get answers to your questions, call the CFPB at 855-411-2372. To submit a complaint: Visit the website of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau at www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint. Alternatively, call the toll-free phone number at 855-411-CFPB [2372] or the TTY/TDD phone number at 855-729-CFPB [2372]; or Fax the CFPB at 855-237-2392; or mail a letter to: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, P.O. Box 4503, Iowa City, IA

52244. [Source: Military.com article Jun 2, 2014 ++]

ON-BASE FOOD CONCESSIONNAIRES ARE STANDING FAST THANKS TO RELIEF FROM NEW FEDERAL WAGE LAWS

Military fast food fans can breathe - and eat - easier: The Labor Department is backing off new wage rules for fast food employees that threatened to shut down many such eateries on military installations. "We are optimistic that many of our industry partners will be willing to continue providing services under these new terms," said Kathleen Martin, spokeswoman for the Navy Exchange Service Command, which negotiates and oversees contracts for fast food concessionaires on Navy bases. The Labor Department's new minimum wage rules announced last year for contract workers in fast-food concessions operated under federal contracts led several such restaurants on military installations to end their contracts this year and shut their doors.

In March, McDonald's restaurants closed on three Navy bases and another eatery, "I Love Country," closed at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Military officials had feared that more on-base fast food outlets would follow suit. Fast food outlets outside the gate -- not operated as part of federal contracts -- are not subject to these minimum wage rules. Full details of the revised wage rules are expected to be released soon, but Labor officials already have pulled back on one aspect of the wage hike: A new "health and welfare benefit" will be paid at a rate of 92 cents per hour. Labor's original proposal had pegged

that benefit at \$3.81 per hour. PX officials are waiting for the release of the updated basic minimum hourly rates by region, which are expected to change, but it's not known if they will be lower than the changes made last Fall that increased the wages. In April, the Navy had requested a waiver from the new wage rules for fast food workers covered by the Service Contract Act, noting that in six areas in Florida, California and Virginia, the increase in the new mandated hourly wage ranged from 72 percent to 76 percent. As part of that request, Russell Beland, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Military Manpower and Personnel, said Navy and Marine Corps exchange officials estimated that unless relief was granted, up to 390 fast food concession operations would close on installations across the U.S. and its territories. After Labor officials announced they would revise the new wage rules, Ms. Martin said NEXCOM officials "welcome the reconsideration and look forward to receiving the revised wage determinations so that we may begin negotiations with our industry

partners." She added that the Navy Department remains committed to delivering affordable food options to sailors, Marines and their families on base. Marine Corps Exchange officials referred questions to Navy officials, who provided their responses through Martin.



Most fast food concessions on Army and Air Force bases are unaffected because they are operated directly by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, not by contract. But for those concession contracts, the announcement of the reprieve has meant that some companies "have indicated they are now comfortable with submitting fee proposals again," said AAFES spokesman Chris Ward, and the Exchange Service will be conducting business as usual. Fast food

outlets on military bases are not funded by the federal government; they rely on the revenue from customers, and provide payments to the exchange systems that help support military morale, welfare and recreation programs.

While the increased wages would benefit employees, fast food restaurants on military bases can't raise their prices to offset increased labor costs, because under most contracts they can't charge more than is charged by similar services within a specified radius of the installation. Fast food restaurants outside the gates are not subject to these minimum wage rules. These wage determinations, which take effect with new and renegotiated contracts, are separate from President Obama's executive order raising the minimum wage for all federal contract workers to \$10.10 per hour in new and renegotiated contracts after January 1, 2015. On that requirement, Ms. Martin said, "We're waiting on further guidance from the Defense Department and the Navy." [Source: NavyTimes | Karen Jowers | Jun 16, 2014 ++]

WANTED



Sam "Bounty Hunter" Elliott
For Legion Post 305
FIRST VICE COMMANDER
 Per Order: Pete Koch, Commanding

WANTED



Jim "Mad Dog" Mattis
For Legion Post 305
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
 Per Order: Pete Koch, Commanding

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS

**Auxiliary President
Dayna Salter**



As I hand the gavel over to incoming **President Jenny Hamann**, this will be my last column as Unit President. I want to thank all the members of the Unit for their hard work in achieving our goals over the last 2½ years. I will be continuing on the Executive Committee as the Unit Treasurer/ Database Manager, and I hope to be able to complete some tasks that I did not have time to do while President. One goal is to get a new membership directory out!

Our June meeting saw the Installation of the new officers for the 2014-2015 term (listed in the box below). **Leigh-Anne Stewart, District 7 President**, presided. We were also joined by **District 7 Vice President Tammy Cannon**; Unit 615 members **Griselda Jarvis**, her mother, **Porfiria Lozano**, and **Elizabeth Atkinson**; and new member **Linda Chihuahua**.

I took the occasion of my last meeting as President to present the following Certificates of Appreciation and Achievement.

Joan Sparks was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for her proactive work with both our tattered flag replacement program and programs for local school children. She oversees the Department sponsored essay contests for 4th and 5th graders, and she also has developed a new program for our Unit to honor Blue Star children and families.

Rosalie Fryer was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for her wise counsel and sound advice as Parliamentarian during my tenure as President. In addition, she spearheads our key fundraising efforts with Birdies-for-Charity and the Poppy Distribution Programs in May and November.

Kyla Durant and **Macy Marshall** were awarded Certificates of Achievement for their participation in the Unit 305 Inaugural Junior Patch Program. Both girls have made excellent progress in obtaining patches for their age group.

Don't forget to come out for the 4th of July parade this coming Friday. We will decorate our

float beginning at 7:30 at the Woodlands Methodist Church parking lot. The parade rolls at 9:00 AM. We need float riders as well as walkers to hand out flags to the crowd. This is a great way to start the holiday weekend.

Five of us, **Rosalie Fryer, Jenny Hamann, Geri Mulvihill, Mary Lee Mulvihill** and I, will be attending the 94th Department Convention in McAllen on July 10-13. We will report back at the July 17th meeting what we learned.

Annie Smith is hosting a potluck lunch for members on Friday, July 18th at 11:00 AM at her home. The theme is Red, White and Blue. Please contact **Annie** if you are interested in attending.

The theme of next month's meeting will be "Italian Night". **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the side dishes to complement her lasagna. It will also be Veronica's birthday, so we will have a cake for her.

Have a wonderful 4th of July,
-Dayna Salter



OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY UNIT 305 & CONTACT INFORMATION

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HISTORIAN: Stephanie Marshall; Tel: (832) 637-2909; E-mail: edaymemories@hotmail.com
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SGT-AT-ARMS: Annie Smith; Tel: (281) 757-3967; E-mail: carl12024@yahoo.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

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Fri.	July 4	Woodlands Fourth-of-July Parade	Start: Methadome Parking Lot @ 8:00 AM
Wed.	July 9 to Sun. July 13	Department Convention	Renaissance Casa de Palmas Hotel, 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
Sat.	July 19 to Sun. July 20	Department Leadership Training	Civic Center, 3601 So. W.S.Young Drive, Killeen, TX
Sun.	July 27	Korean War Armistice Signed	Pan Moon Ja, 38 th Parallel 1953
Mon.	July 28	World War I Began	Europe 1914
Mon.	Aug. 4	Coast Guard Established	1790
Thur.	Aug. 7	Purple Heart Medal Established	1782
Thur.	Aug. 7	Vietnam War Began	1964
Thur.	Aug. 14	Japan Surrendered Ending WWII	Tokyo Bay 1945
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 Thur. Aug. 28	National Convention	Charlotte, NC
Tue.	Sept. 2	V-J Day	
Thur.	Sept. 11	Patriots Day (9/11 Remembrance)	
Mon.	Sept. 15	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Sept. 18	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Sat.	Sept. 20	Woodlands National Night Out	Northshore Park; Noon to 3:00 PM

POST CONTACT INFORMATION (2014-2015)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel. Number</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>
COMMANDER:	Pete Koch	(936) 273-3588	<petekoch76@gmail.com>
FIRST VICE CMDR:	(Candidates Being Sought)		
SECOND VICE CMDR:	Mickey Fussell	(281) 367-7115	<hmf1deer@gmail.com>
ADJUTANT:	Pickens Jones	(281) 367-7631	<pickensjones@usa.net>
FINANCE OFFICER:	Jim Bolin	(281) 251-2352	<jpb20006@sbcglobal.net>
SERVICE OFFICER:	Dayton Denton	(832) 928-605	<whselfstorage1@yahoo.com>
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:	(Candidates Being Sought)		
ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS:	(To be appointed)		
CHAPLAIN:	Victoria Glover	(832) 813-9415	<goldvicgoddess@gmail.com>
ASS'T CHAPLAIN:	(To be appointed)		
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Everett Ison	(281) 298-9524	<everett.ison@sprint.com>
HISTORIAN:	Winfield Salter	(281) 370-1912	<flintyeye@gmail.com>
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Position 2:	Emery Heuermann	(281) 362-8431	<emeryheuermann@charter.net>

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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.