



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 “ THE WOODLANDS POST” THE BUGLE



MAY 2015

VOLUME 11: ISSUE 5

THINK NOT OF THE PRICE OF YOUR DUES; THINK OF WHAT YOU DID TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PAY THEM

**POST COMMANDER
PETE KOCH**



COMMANDER’S CORNER

Dear Legionnaires,

By the Post’s Constitution and By-Laws, we are required to notify all members in advance of the election of new officers for the 2015-2016 year, so that those interested can be present and vote at the membership meeting on May 21st. This newsletter serves as your notification. With the election of officers for the 2015–2016 fiscal year almost here, we are, as the US Marines would say, looking for “a few good men” and women who are in good standing in the American Legion and Post 305.

At the April Post meeting, the Nominating Committee put forward to the membership for adoption its’ slate of candidates for the 12 positions and requested more names from the membership by reading the incomplete slate. You will note that only eight names in eight

RECOMMENDED SLATE – 2015-2016

Commander-----Jim Bolin
1st Vice Commander-----Pete Koch
2nd Vice Commander----- (Open)
Adjutant-----Pickens Jones
Finance Officer-----Emery Heuermann
Service Officer-----Toby Carroll
Judge Advocate-----Everett Ison
Historian----- (Open)
Chaplain-----Victoria Glover
Sergeant-At-Arms-----Carl Smith
Executive Committeeman #1----(Open)
Executive Committeeman #2----(Open)

positions have agreed to serve and were adopted, and all but one is a currently-serving officer. In addition to placing additional competing nominees in these positions, we need to fill the remaining open positions before the May meeting election. We will call for additional nominees from the floor at the May meeting before closing the slate and voting. Just because we have names in some of the positions, does not mean you cannot offer other names to compete. The Post would like to see a choice of names, so feel free to place your name in the running for one of the positions. Anyone nominated in this fashion must be present or a letter of acceptance must be with the Adjutant by the time the slate is amended, We will hold the election at the May meeting, and the new officers will be sworn in at the June meeting, with an Installation Ceremony led by the Seventh District Commander. The new officers

will assume command in July, the beginning of the next fiscal year.

To vote you must be present at the May meeting and be “in good standing” which includes paid-up dues. Elected officers must have a copy of his or her DD-214 form (or other service documentation) available for the Post Adjutant prior to the installation ceremony in June. This pertinent documentation must be sent to the Department of Texas along with a certification of election.

If you want to help your Post by becoming one of its officers, please contact the **Nominating Committee Chairman Jim Bolin** at 281-251-2352 or at ipb20006@sbcglobal.net. Each outgoing officer will work closely with you to teach you the ropes. If filling a position, and thus being on the Executive Committee does not appeal to you, and it should, consider volunteering as an assistant to any officer who could use the help or find a place on a Standing Committee. In next month’s Commander’s Corner, I will discuss the various committees. Assistants become trained by doing and are more qualified to serve as officers the following year. The incoming Commander will be appointing assistants as needed and also Committee Chairpersons. And, If you can stand to march and carry a flag

or rifle, the Color Guard is another place for you.

The Semi-annual Rummage Sale was held the weekend of April 18th/19th at the Robinson Road Community Center. The gross income was \$746.85 – about one-half of what the budget had included as income.

The Spring District Convention was held in Madisonville at Post 84. The delegates elected new officers for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and our very own Past Commander **Kimberly Biggerstaff** was elected unanimously as the new Seventh District Commander.



On May 30/31, Bryan Post 159 will host the 2nd Division Convention. The 97th Department Convention will be held this year in Beaumont, from July 7th through the 12th. Particulars will be sent in an e-blast as the date nears.

If you have not paid your dues for 2015, your name is in suspension and at the risk of losing your membership and continuity. If so, you need to take care of it ASAP. Do not create gap in your membership and have to apply all over again. All it takes is your check for \$31.00, made out to American Legion Post 305, P.O. Box 9336, The Woodlands, TX, 77387, and sent to the Adjutant.

Memorial Day is on May 25th this year. We will be providing our Color Guard for the Parade of Colors at the Houston National Cemetery and the Auxiliary will be laying a wreath at this event. Ceremony starts at 9:00 AM.

There will be a dedication of the well overdue Veterans Memorial in Town Green Park, The Woodlands. It will be held at 4:00 PM in the Park. I would ask that the veterans take time to relax and mark this dedication on Memorial Day as their day to remember all of those that have fallen.

Post 305 – On The Air: Thanks to publicist Wicked Publicity, the Post, represented by the undersigned, will take part in the “Weekly Business Hour”, hosted by **Richard Schissler**, at 11:00 AM on Monday May 4th. This live radio/Internet talk-show broadcasts from Conroe. The topic is The American Legion, The Woodlands Post 305 and Armed Forces Day.

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

Our next meeting will be at 7:00 PM on May 21st at the South County Community Center on Lake Robbins Drive in The Woodlands.

For God and Country
Pete Koch

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS **(April 16, 2015)**

Prior to the start of the meeting, **Commander Koch** introduced **Dr. Kala Eulitt**, a chiropractor, who provided members of the Post and Auxiliary with tips as to how to maintain health by

improving our posture. After that presentation, **Commander Koch** opened the meeting in the usual manner

Next came the matter of approving the minutes of the last month’s membership meeting and the Executive Committee meeting held on Monday. There being no changes, the minutes were unanimously approved by the membership’s action.

The financial report was summarized by **Finance Officer Jim Bolin**, to wit: the General Fund and the Money Market Fund (now combined) held \$14,182.31; the Investment Fund: \$30,660.04; for a Total Assets of \$44,842.35

This meeting, being the end of the Quarter, the Finance Officer provided each member with a copy of the Budget reflecting spending for the first three quarters of the year.

Next, the **Commander** called upon **Jim Bolin** to provide a report of the Nominating Committee on the slate to be adopted. The nominations to date are found in the box on page 1. Attention was called to the need for nominees in four positions.

Jim Bolin then gave a report on the Birdies for Charity outcome as follows: Total Birdies made in the tournament = 1843. There were two winners (neither from our donors). The Post and Auxiliary together raised \$2,195.58, which will be returned to the Post as soon as all the unpaid Birdie pledges are paid.

Wearing the Public Relations Chairman’s cap and acting in that capacity, the **Commander** said that he would be interviewed on the talk-radio

Weekly Business Hour on Monday, May 4, 2015. The Host, **Richard Schissler**, and the **Commander** will be discussing American Legion Post 305.

The **Commander** discussed his attendance at the Chamber of Commerce meetings on the first Wednesday of the month and the District Meeting to be held April 17th in Madisonville at Post 84.

Chaplain Victoria Glover reported that she had contacted Sid Ulmer's family and he is doing well. Also Joe Watz is doing well. **Acting Sergeant-at-Arms Harlen Thornhill** had no report.

Judge Advocate Everett Ison is working on amending the Post Constitution and By-Laws to permit the Post to create and operate a Legion Riders unit. A draft of the proposed sections was given a second reading, as required by the Constitution and By-laws. The membership approved the change to the Constitution and By-laws. The results will be sent to Department executives for their approval and then to the floor of the Department Convention for final approval.

Historian Win Salter reported that work is continuing on the History Books for this year. **Service Officer Dayton Denton** introduced Post member **Toby Carroll**. **Toby** has agreed to be nominated as the new Service Officer for 2015-2016. Dayton then discussed the progress of getting together the means to send 25 boys to Boys State.

Under New Business, it was proposed that the Post move the dates of the Rummage Sale to the second Saturday of the

months of April and October rather than the third Saturday. The third Saturday always conflicts with the District Convention and detracts from the number of people left to support the Rummage Sale. This was put into a motion and was approved. The change will begin with the second Saturday in October 2015.

Under "For-the-Good-of-the-Post", it was suggested that the members of the Post, and at least the Officers, set a uniform code and agree on the same color/style polo shirt to wear at meetings and events. All present thought that a good idea and agreed upon a navy blue color shirt from the Legion PX. The Finance Officer will order the shirts and get paid from the member when he/she picks up his shirt.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The membership who stayed around for the Social Hour were rewarded with a light supper of sandwiches and sides provided by the Auxiliary.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE IN PICTURES



VETERANS ADVOCATE

THE NEW "DOC-FIX" BILL WILL HIT YOU IN THE POCKETBOOK

After decades of last-minute deals to patch the Medicare payments system, the House of Representatives passed a bill 26 MAR that would insure that Medicare doctors continue to be paid at current rates. "This relentless return to this issue was creating a sense of anxiety around Medicare, so this permanent solution may provide some peace of mind to both people in the program, and their physicians," says Tricia Newman, senior vice president and director of the Program on Medicare Policy at the Kaiser Foundation. It appears that the bill will get approval from both the Senate and President Obama. The plan adds \$141 billion to the federal deficit in the first decade, with costs rising more sharply after that. But, it will also offset some of its costs by pushing some of the expenses onto Medicare customers. Here's how it will affect seniors:

Higher Medicare Premiums for the Wealthiest: The bill will require wealthier patients to shoulder a larger percentage of the cost of their insurance starting in 2018. Single-payers with a modified adjusted gross income of \$133,500 to \$160,000 (\$267,000 to \$320,000 for a couple) per year would pay 65 percent of their

premium costs for Part B (outpatient services) and Part D (prescription drugs), up from 50 percent now. Those earning \$160,000 to \$214,000 per year (\$320,000 to \$428,000 for couples), would see their share of the premiums increase from 65 percent to 75 percent. The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates this change would affect two percent of current enrollees. Individuals making \$133,500 to \$160,000 currently pay \$272.20 per month, while those making \$320,000 to \$428,000 pay \$313.90.

Higher premiums: Even those individuals making less than \$133,500 per year will see their premiums rise. Since all enrollees pay a set percentage of premiums as doctor fees rise, those premiums are expected to increase as well. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that those premiums will increase under this bill by about \$10 by 2025 to \$181 per month.

Higher Medigap Deductibles: About 20 percent of Medicare enrollees buy a supplemental Medigap plan, which helps with out-of-pocket costs and typically pays the deductible for outpatient services. The new "DocFix" plan would block Medigap plans from paying the deductible cost, currently capped at \$147 per year, starting in 2020. "The idea is for people to have some exposure to healthcare expenditures when they're making treatment decisions," Neuman says.

More Competitive Medicare Advantage Plans: Most Medicare enrollees who don't use Medigap opt for a Medicare Advantage (Part C) Plan, which is typically either an HMO or a PPO and provides extra coverage for things like prescription drugs and vision or dental. Such plans offer the

convenience of having just one plan and sometimes cost less than combining a Medigap Plan with Part D coverage, but they often have narrower networks and require co-payments. Plan operators may see the proposed DocFix changes as a way to grab market share by offering prices that can beat the higher premiums in traditional Medicare plans. "Medicare Advantage Plan sponsors may try to absorb some of those premium increases in order to grow their enrollment," says Paul Keckley, the managing director of the NavigantCenter for Healthcare Research and Policy Analysis.

**ACCESS TO VETERANS
CHOICE MADE MORE
REASONABLE**

In order to expand eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it will determine eligibility for the Program based on the distance between the veteran's place of residence and the nearest VA medical facility using driving distance rather than straight-line distance. This change has been published in the Federal Register and is in force now.

"VA is pleased to announce the distance calculation change for the Veterans Choice Program," said VA Secretary Robert McDonald. "This update will allow more veterans to access care when and where they want it. We look forward to continued dialogue with veterans and our partners to help us ensure continued improvements for veterans to access care."

The change from straight-line to driving distance roughly doubles the number of eligible veterans. Letters are being sent

to the newly eligible veterans to let them know they are now eligible for the Veterans Choice Program under this expansion. If a veteran does not remember receiving a Veterans Choice Card or has other questions about the Choice Program, they can call (866) 606-8198.

VA is also changing the mileage calculation for beneficiary travel. The change will ensure consistency in VA's mileage calculations across the two programs. The beneficiary travel calculation will now be made using the fastest route instead of the shortest route.

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
281-376-4114



Thesaurus.

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS

**Auxiliary President
Jenny Hamann**



Hello Again Friends,

April was a busy month. We finished out our Birdies for Charity fundraiser, bringing in \$1,200. We read a record number of Americanism essays from local K-12 schools and selected six which we sent to the Department. Our Post held a rummage sale where **Mary Bolin, Annie Smith, Rosalie Fryer** and **Joan Charest** helped. These ladies are always willing to volunteer when needed. Hats off to them.

We were blessed to send **Rosalie Fryer, Joan Sparks**, my sister, **Geri Mulvihill** and myself to the District Seven Convention. Heartfelt congratulations to **Geri** who was elected **District Chaplain. Liz Bryant** will be the new **District President**. Our Post/Unit won the travelling trophy for donating the most travel-sized toiletries for the VA hospital. It

is exactly where it belongs!

Post and Unit 84 of Madisonville were the gracious hosts and hostesses for the Convention and did a wonderful job. Sadly there were a couple Post and Units not represented due to accidents and deaths the day before and day of the Convention. Our hearts go out to the people involved and their families.

May promises to be eventful. We will hold our annual elections at the May meeting, so I encourage all of you to attend. Stay afterward and enjoy our pot-luck social with the Post. Don't forget that May brings Memorial Day. I encourage all of you to help distribute Poppies in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. We will have more details, dates and locations at the May meeting.

Featured Lady of Service:

I am very pleased to present **Gene Wilson-Watz** as our Featured Lady of Service this month. **Gene** is a diligent worker, always faithful in her duties. She served as Treasurer from perhaps the mid-1990s to 2010. Although she encouraged others to step up, no one would so she continued in that role and even added the duties of Secretary

for a time. Gene did all the Unit's paperwork, and she dealt with the Department of Texas.

She was invaluable in keeping the President informed about all that was going on and what needed to be done. All that time she was taking care of her dear husband, Joe. She stored all of Unit 305's books and more at her house. In addition, **Gene** took care of membership.



Rosalie Fryer tells me that she did work for her, as well, when **Rosalie** was District and Division President. **Gene's** was a job well done! When she finally decided that she needed to step down, she graciously helped me to take over as Treasurer on an interim basis until the next election. She remained available to me as a valued resource throughout the time I served in that capacity.

Gene is worthy of praise, and we owe her a debt of gratitude for the many years of capable and faithful service she unselfishly provided.

Your Servant,

Jenny

OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY UNIT 305 & CONTACT INFORMATION

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VICE PRESIDENT: Mary Bolin; Tel: (281) 251-2352; Email: jpb20006@sbcglobal.net
SECRETARY: Sandie Holzinger; Tel: (281) 364-8590; E-mail: zing1991@yahoo.com
TREASURER: Dayna Salter; Tel: (281) 229-1365; E-mail: dayna.salter@ymail.com
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SGT-AT-ARMS: Annie Smith; Tel: (281) 757-3967; E-mail: carl12024@yahoo.com
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:
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.	May 1	Loyalty Day	
Mon.	May 4	Armed Forces Day	
Fri.	May 8	VE Day (1945)	
Sun.	May 10	Mother's Day	
Mon.	May 18	Executive Committee Meeting	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	May 21	Membership Meetings (Election of 12 Officers for 2015-2016)	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Mon.	May 25	Memorial Day Observed	Houston National Cemetery @ 9:00 AM
Mon.	May 25	Woodlands Memorial Day Ceremony	Town Green Park @ 1:00 PM
Mon.	May 25	Memorial Monument "The Way Home" Dedication	Town Green Park @ 4:00 PM
Sat.	June 6	D-Day: Invasion of Europe (1944)	
Sun.	June 14	Flag Day	
Mon.	June 15	Executive Committee Meeting	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	June 18	Flag Disposal Ceremony followed by Membership Meetings (Installation of Officers for 2015-2016)	So. County Community Center @ 6:15 PM
Sun.	June 21	Fathers Day	
Thur.	June 25	Korean War Commenced (1950)	
Sat.	July 4	Independence Day	The Woodlands' July Fourth Parade
Mon.	July 13	Executive Committee Meeting	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	July 16	Membership Meetings	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 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:	(Candidates Being Sought)		
ADJUTANT:	Pickens Jones	(281) 367-7631	pickensjones@usa.net
FINANCE OFFICER:	Jim Bolin	(281) 251-2352	jpb20006@sbcglobal.net
SERVICE OFFICER:	Dayton Denton	(832) 928-6054	whselfstorage1@yahoo.com
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:	Harlen Thornhill	(409) 273-2287	harlen@consolidated.net
	ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714	carl12024@yahoo.com
CHAPLAIN:	Victoria Glover	(832) 813-9415	alpost305chaplain@gmail.com
	ASS'T CHAPLAIN: Uriah Turner	(936) 524-9288	
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Everett Ison	(281) 298-9524	everett.ison@sprint.com
HISTORIAN:	Winfield Salter	(281) 370-1912	flintyeye@gmail.com
<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:</u>			
Position 1:	Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714	carl12024@yahoo.com
Position 2:	Emery Heuermann	(281) 362-8431	emeryheuermann@charter.net

OTHER INFORMATION:

THE BUGLE BRASS: EDITOR: Jim Bolin Coffee Gopher: Win Salter
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PHONE NUMBER: (281) 298-2440 **MAIL:** P. O. BOX 9336, THE WOODLANDS, TX 77387
WEBMASTER: Emery Heuermann **WEBSITES:** www.alpost305.org and www.mypost.org
FACEBOOK MANAGER: Kimberly Biggerstaff kimbiggerstaff@icloud.com
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.