



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 "THE WOODLANDS POST" THE BUGLE



JULY 2015

VOLUME 11: ISSUE 7

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

POST COMMANDER JIM BOLIN



COMMANDER'S CORNER

As a result of our election, I have been elected to the High Post of Commander for the next year. I have been a member of Post 305 since 2004, and a member of the Legion since 1998. I have been Commander for three years in each of the two Posts to which I belonged. This time, I will be serving with people who are familiar with the Post and its workings. The only new members of the Executive Committee are **Toby Carroll**, the new Service Officer, and **Lacey Homan**, Historian. **Toby** has had a lot of experience with the VA and will be an asset to the Post. **Lacey**, with years of Army administration and a 17-year Post member, is most likely to succeed recording Post events.

At long last, the Post has a First Vice Commander, **Pete Koch**. We need the job of membership

chairman active to assure our roster remains at its current level or increases. Among others, two important people to the membership are **Win Salter** and **Dayton Denton**, who will now serve as Committeemen-At-Large on the Executive Committee and be responsible for bringing bright ideas and offering their advice to the Committee. The Post is organized, now what will we be doing?

Firstly, we must find enough members to keep the Post and the Legion as an entity full of veterans. The Legion has had as many as 2.5 million members, but no longer, and we need to do our bit to make up that deficit, because a declining number of members effects our ability to influence the members of Congress. The fact is that our WWII and Korean War members are reaching life's end, without seeing Persian Gulf War vets joining the Legion in sufficient numbers to offset those losses.

Secondly, we must earn enough money so that the Post can pursue its programs of helping the veterans and their families. To do that we have several fund raisers that we need to keep solvent and more productive. They are the two Rummage Sales, one Birdies-for-Charity, and occasional Poppy Sales. Last year, the income from these was well

below our normal. We need some "brainstorming" on how to improve that income and what new fundraising initiatives the Post and Unit should undertake. We receive currently only \$5.00 per year from each membership renewal, but every little bit helps.

Thirdly, we must continue to support our programs that help veterans and their families. We have a member, **Steve McKinsey**, who volunteers a couple of times a week at the VA Hospital. To us, he mostly delivers what we donate, such as reading material, clothing, and personal hygiene and comfort items, but he does more. He seeks out and finds the items the vets need. The Post also has a very successful annual effort to send more and more boys to Boys State. This past year we sent 31. The Auxiliary does likewise with Girls State. Maybe next year we will send more. We need to revive our support of the Oratorical Contest and Award of Scholarships. All of these pursuits require the help of the membership. So what's in it for you?

I can best tell this story about myself. At my first Post, I didn't learn anything about the many benefits to which a veteran is entitled. Now, everyone won't qualify for the same things, but you may be pleasantly surprised. When I came to Post 305, several people urged

me to register with the VA. This was after probably eight years in the Legion. Well, I didn't think I could qualify, but I was eligible. They urged me again to apply for a disability because of hearing. So, I applied and was awarded 20% -- 10% for each tinnitus and hearing loss. With a 20% disability VA award, 20% was automatically removed from my retirement income. What to do? There is a program that the Army has, Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC). Applying for CRSC added back the 20% to my retirement pay. There are more "bennies" I get, but you get the idea. If I hadn't actively involved with the American Legion, I probably never would have found out about these possibilities. Perhaps you're in the same boat. Give us a try, and you may like us. We can use all the help we can gain, and so can you.

Keep our military personnel in your prayers, as they are still out there on the front lines, if there still are such things!

Jim Bolin
Commander

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS **(June 18, 2015)**

The first thing that happened this day was the postponement of the scheduled Unserviceable Flag Disposal Ceremony due to rain. **Commander Koch** announced it would be held before the August meeting, which could include the July meeting. That will soon to be a matter for **Commander Bolin** to decide.

The membership meeting was a joint Post/Auxiliary meeting, or, per the agenda, "Joint Ice Cream Social with Auxiliary Unit". The main attraction was

the installation of new officers in both the Post and the Auxiliary. With members of both units present, **Commander Koch** opened the meeting with the usual formal rituals. Calling on the acting **Sergeant-at-Arms, Carl Smith** to report on any guests present, the list was read: **District 7 Commander Ed Jarvis, District 7 President Leigh Ann Stewart, District 7 Chaplain Joe Piazza, and Marcela Dreesen** and her grandmother, **Carol Dreesen**.

The subject became minutes of past Executive Committee and Membership meetings: **Adjutant Jones** had distributed his minutes of the May 21st Special Executive Committee Meeting and the Membership Meeting and the June 15th Executive Committee Meeting. They were duly approved by the membership. The **Finance Officer, Jim Bolin**, was called on for the financial report. In summary, the General Fund held \$9,000.41 at the end of May, and the investment account totaled \$30,767.44 and gained \$45.75 in the month.

The **Commander** then turned the proceedings over to the District officers to conduct the installations, which began with the Auxiliary; **President Leigh Ann Stewart** officiating. She called the incoming Unit officers to line up before her, administered the oath and charged each with her duties of office. In closing, she presented the new officers to all present and a round of applause followed. Those officers present and sworn were: **Jenny Hamann, President; Sandy Holtzinger, Secretary; Dayna Salter, Treasurer; Geri Mulvihill, Chaplain; and Mary Bolin, Veronica Maiolo and Liz Heuerman, Committeewomen At-Large**. Absent was Kathy

Carroll, Vice President. The Historian position is open. (See photo on page 6.)

Next, **Commander Jarvis** took over and aligned the Post's incoming officers before him, and commenced the installation proceedings. The new officers were sworn in, given their individual charge of duties, and likewise were introduced to the other members present. Those officers present and sworn in were: **Jim Bolin, Commander; Pete Koch, First Vice Commander; Pickens Jones, Adjutant; Emery Heuerman, Finance Officer; Victoria Glover, Chaplain; Everett Ison, Judge Advocate; Lacey Homan, Historian; Carl Smith, Sergeant-at-Arms; Dayton Denton and Win Salter, both At-Large Committeemen. Absent was Toby Carroll, Service Officer**. The Second Vice Commander position is open. (See photos on the following page.)

Commander Koch took back the gavel and announced that the Drape-the-Charter ceremony in memory of **Rudy Charest** would take place at the next meeting where the agenda will be less crowded. **Dayton Denton** was called on to introduce guests **Marcela Dreesen** and her chaperone. A large handcart was wheeled out loaded with items destined for DeBakey VA Medical Center, all of which were made or collected by 10-year old **Marcela**. She has been producing such welcomed items for a few years and personally delivering them to the VA hospital for the benefit of the sick and wounded veterans. Her inspiration has been a long line of wartime veterans on her family tree. "Atta girl's" and applause were genuine.

Ten new Post officers are sworn in by District 7 Commander Jarvis. L-R: Pete Koch, First Vice Commander; Jim Bolin, Commander; Win Salter, Committeeman; Lacey Homan, Historian; Dayton Denton, Committeeman; Emery Heurman, Finance Officer; Victoria Glover, Chaplain; Pickens Jones, Adjutant; Carl Smith, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Everett Ison, Judge Advocate. Not present, nor sworn: Toby Carroll, Service Officer.



Incoming Commander Bolin presents a plaque to Pete Koch, who was voted Legionnaire-of-the-Year.

L-R: District 7 Commander Ed Jarvis and District Chaplain Joe Piazza, to conduct the installation proceedings, and District 7 Commander-Elect Kim Biggerstaff, of Post 305.



Commander Koch presents to Auxiliary Unit Chaplain Geri Mulvihill an award for winning First Place at the 2015 Chili Cook-Off Contest

To the right: Ten-year-old Marcela Dreesen is flanked by Commander Koch and Post member Steve McKinsey. Marcela is being recognized for her outstanding work in creating and collecting material donations for veterans at DeBakey VA Medical Center and delivering those herself. Steve is the Post's agent doing similar collecting and delivery to the hospital. YOU GO, GAL!



It was time to honor **Pete Koch**, who had been voted the "Legionnaire-of-the-Year" by the Executive Committee. With incoming **Commander Jim Bolin** as presenter, an engraved plaque was duly presented to **Pete**, attesting to the honor.

With that, **Commander Koch** ran through an abbreviated series of business topics: A June 30th live talk-radio interview on the subject, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), with expert Ashley Taylor. This 50-minute discussion will be on "Bloomberg Radio On Business", 1110 AM KTEK, hosted by Paul Loudon. Although PTSD can be inflicted by other stressful events, the Post's concern is the impact on wartime veterans. On a related subject, the **Commander** updated members on the proposed Legion Internet talk-radio station, which will be a discussion topic at the Department Convention in Beaumont next month.

Next, the status of preparations for the July 4th parade was the topic. Among other matters covered were the Color Guard, the trailer-to-be-a-float, chairs for it, finding the VIP open cars, the handout flags and the handout ads for the fundraiser cruise. Despite the absence of Post member **Dennis Bell**, who is an asset to this affair, some matters were resolved or given new priorities. **Jim Bolin** called for three or four volunteers to be drivers of loaned vehicles in the parade.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was closed in the usual manner. A sandwich, ice cream and cookie snack followed and were enjoyed by all.



VETERANS ADVOCATE

CRAFTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR 2016

The Senate worked all week in early June on amendments to its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (S.1376). While much was done, there is still much to do. Armed Forces Committee Chairman John McCain said he hopes to finish up the bill next week. The National Association of Uniformed Services (NAUS) has a number of concerns about provisions contained within the Senate version of the Act currently under full Senate review. In a letter to Senate members, NAUS stated these concerns and urged rejection of several provisions contained in the bill regarding pay and allowances.

Specifically, NAUS, and members of The Military Coalition, asked Senators to strike the following sections in the bill: Sections 601, 602-604, 702, and 651-652 (to include the further reduction of the commissary subsidy by \$322 million). Section 601 would reduce the across-the-board pay raise 1.0 percent below ECI, an increase of 1.3 percent instead of 2.3 percent. Sections 602 and 603 would authorize reduction of the monthly Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) amount by up to 5 percent. Section 604 would limit the

BAH for dual military married couples who live together, to one allowance at the with-dependent rate for the member with the higher pay grade. Sections 651-652 request elimination of hurtful commissary provisions. Section 702 deals with opposition to increased pharmacy rates. In addition, NAUS along with members of the National Military and Veterans Alliance, a non-partisan policy and advocacy organization composed of military and veteran service organizations, wrote a letter of support for an amendment to the Act offered by Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) that would restore substantial budget cuts to the commissary program. NAUS also supports a related amendment on commissaries offered by Senators Jim Inhofe (R-OK) and Mikulski to the Authorization bill.

As the full Senate considers its version of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, NAUS urges readers to send a message to support the commissary program. Without amendment, the proposed cuts, currently in S.1376, would dismantle the commissary benefit, relied upon by millions of military service members and their families, and will most directly hit those who need it most: junior enlisted families, fixed income retirees, and surviving families. [Source: NAUS Weekly Watchdog | June 12, 2015 ++]

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BENEFIT WOMEN VETERANS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will conduct a series of one-day events to raise awareness and celebrate the stories of women veterans.

The events, to be held in five locations across the country, will provide an overview of services and benefits available to women veterans. Experts will be available to answer veterans' questions, and exhibitors will share information on their many resources. "We have found that our women veterans often put the needs of others' first," said Elisa Basnight, Director of VA's Center for Women Veterans (CWV). "We encourage them to make themselves a priority, to learn about the benefits and services which they've earned through their dedicated service. We are bringing our experts to them, where they are." VA staff, as well as local community supporters and agencies that assist women veterans, will be available for face-to-face interaction. All VA facilities are encouraged to participate in activities to celebrate and honor the women who answered the nation's call. The scheduled events and local activities are part of a new national VA campaign, "Women Veterans: Celebrating Our Stories of Service", which launched in late March 2015. The vision for the national VA campaign was born out of the realization that when our women veterans from all eras and generations surrender the uniform, they retain the intangible; that combination of resolute resilience and the unbeatable skills they will incorporate into their reintegration and readjustment process. Through this campaign, CWV will be engaged in going to these women veterans to raise the awareness of VA's commitment to them, and to facilitate the conversation around what more needs to be done in serving the unique needs of women veterans. The sessions for women veterans

will be held between June and September 2015, at the following locations:

~ St. Petersburg, FL – June 12.
~ San Diego (Oceanside), CA – July 10.

~ Houston, TX – August 7.

~ Minneapolis/St Paul, MN - Sept.14.

~ Washington, DC – Sept. 22.

Women veterans represent one of the fastest growing segments of the veterans population—about 9.2 percent of the total veterans population. Today there are an estimated two million women Veterans nationwide. VA continues to improve benefits and services for women veterans and is diligently transforming its culture to embrace this growing population, through other collaborative initiatives with Federal/state/local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. For more information about VA's Women Veterans Campaign and VA's commitment to women veterans <http://www.va.gov/womenvet>.

[Source: VA News Release June 02, 2015 ++]

POST SCRIPTS

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT IS HACKED

A second breach of the Office of Personnel Management by hackers, believed to be associated with China, exposed sensitive security clearance information of intelligence and military personnel, officials confirmed on June 12, potentially creating an intelligence disaster for US spies stationed abroad.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA) FAVORS REALLY SENIOR CARDHOLDERS

A new report of the Inspector General of the SSA revealed that at least 6.5 million active

SSA numbers belong to people who are now at least 112 years old, of which 266 had been issued payments. The oldest verified life-span of any individual who had ever lived is 124.

US TREASURY DEPARTMENT PLANS TO REFRESH THE SAWBUCK

The US Treasury Department has announced that the \$10 Federal Reserve Note will be "refreshed" in 2020 with the portrait of a woman featured on it.

MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM CONDUCTS NEW SURVEY OF GI'S AND FAMILIES

Military Health System has asked for all military members, their families and retirees to participate in its new survey. The survey is anonymous, unless you want to have someone contact you, and it takes only a couple of minutes to complete. Go to: https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=135040&s=1063&dep=*DoD&sc=11 to complete the survey.

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

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS

Treasurer Dayna Salter



several other members are planning on attending the Convention where the new ALA State President will be elected. Last year, Jenny returned with the bright idea of an open house! The ALA will meet in the Elegante Hotel, July 9th to 12th. The theme seems to be "Rock 'n Roll to the Top For Our Vets". Hopefully, our ladies will catch the VA&R Awards Breakfast on Saturday, July 11, at 7:00 AM.

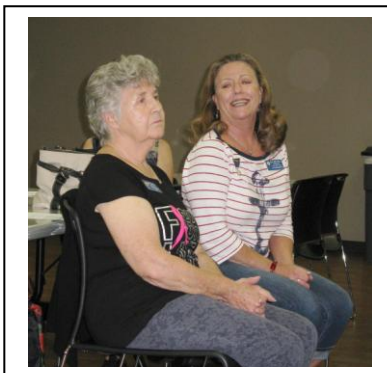
Happy Fourth of July Everyone!

I am filling in this month for **President Jenny Hamann** who is busy helping her mom, **Mary Lee Mulvihill**. **Mary Lee** has begun her cancer treatments and is adjusting to the side effects of chemo. Please keep her and the entire **Mulvihill Family** in your thoughts and prayers.

This is also the time of year where we will begin planning our upcoming new and renewed programs and fundraisers. I hope to see you there.

Stay safe, dry and cool this holiday weekend and have a wonderful time!

-Dayna Salter



Our June meeting saw the installation of the 2015-16 officers. The contact information for our new officers is listed below. Outgoing **District 7 President Leigh-Anne Stewart** did the honors of swearing in the officers. (See the photo of us reciting the oath.) The ceremony was followed by an ice

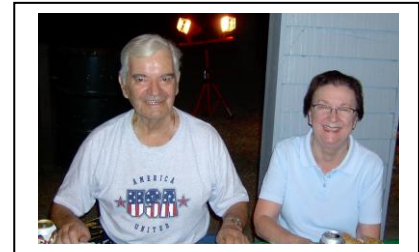
cream social. The planned Flag Disposal Ceremony was postponed to next month due to weather.

At the June meeting, **Chaplain Geri Mulvihill** was presented with a plaque attesting to her First Place finish in January's Chili Cook-off Contest

This coming weekend, we will be assisting the Post with the Fourth of July parade. It is scheduled to roll at 9:00 AM on Saturday, July 4th. Volunteers are needed to help decorate the float beginning at 7:30 am. We will be at the Woodlands United Methodist Church parking lot – the usual place. The parade route will take us through Market Square as in years past. Please come out and support the American Legion as we honor Independence Day and "America's Heroes", the theme of the parade.

ALA Unit 305's next meeting is Thursday, July 16th. We will have a busy meeting discussing the Department Convention which will have been held the weekend of July 10th. Our delegates and

"Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."



Rest in peace, Rudy

OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY UNIT 305 & CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT: Jenny Hamann; Tel: (281) 907-3430; E-mail: ala305pres@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT: Kathy Carroll; Tel: (281) 323-4985; Email: kcarroll47@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
HISTORIAN: (Open)
CHAPLAIN: Geri Mulvihill; Tel: (832) 620-6265; E-mail: geri.mulvihill@yahoo.com
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Rosalie Fryer; Tel: (936) 520-8895; E-mail: rcfryer@consolidated.net
SERGEANT-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>
Sat.	July 4	Independence Day Parade	First Methodist Church Lot @ 8:00 AM
Tues.	July 7 to July 12	Department Convention	Holiday Inn & Suites, I-10 at Walden Road, Beaumont
Mon.	July 13	Executive Committee Meeting	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	July 16	Flag Disposal Ceremony	Community Center Side Yard @ 6:30 PM
Thur.	July 16	Membership Meetings	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Tues.	July 28	World War I Commenced (1914)	
Sat.	Aug. 1	Air Force Day	
Fri.	Aug. 7	Vietnam War Began (1964)	
Fri.	Aug. 14	Japan Surrendered (1945)	
Mon.	Aug. 17	Executive Committee Meeting	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Aug. 20	Membership Meetings	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Mon.	Aug. 31	Operation Iraqi Freedom	
Wed.	Sept. 2	Victory Over Japan (1945)	VJ Day
Fri.	Sept. 11	Patriot Day	Terrorists Attack the US With Airlines
Mon.	Sept. 14	Executive Committee Meeting	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Wed.	Sept. 16 to Sept. 20	Dept. Executive Committee Meeting	Omni San Antonio Hotel; 9821 Colonnade Blvd., San Antonio
Thur.	Sept. 17	Membership Meetings	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Sept. 18	POW/MIA Day	

POST CONTACT INFORMATION (2015-2016)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel. Number</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>
COMMANDER:	Jim Bolin	(281) 251-2352	jpb20006@sbcglobal.net
FIRST VICE CMDR:	Pete Koch	(936) 273-3588	petekoch76@gmail.com
SECOND VICE CMDR:	(Open)		
ADJUTANT:	Pickens Jones	(281) 367-7631	pickensjones@usa.net
FINANCE OFFICER:	Emery Heurman	(281) 362-8431	emeryheurman@charter.net
SERVICE OFFICER:	Toby Carroll	(281) 323-4985	toby.carroll@sbcglobal.net
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:	Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714	carl12024@yahoo.com
ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS	Harlen Thornhill	(409) 273-2287	harlen@consolidated.net
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:	Lacey Homan	() -	lkhoman44@aol.com
<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:</u>			
Position 1:	Dayton Denton	(832) 928-6054	whselfstorage1@yahoo.com
Position 2:	Win Salter	(281) 370-1912	beadyeye@aol.com

OTHER INFORMATION:

THE BUGLE BRASS: EDITOR: Jim Bolin

CONSULTANT: Win Salter

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Pete Koch

E-MAIL ADDRESS: alpost305tx@gmail.com

PHONE NUMBER: (281) 298-2440

MAIL: P. O. BOX 9336, THE WOODLANDS, TX 77387

WEBMASTER: Emery Heurmann

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.