



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 " THE WOODLANDS POST" THE BUGLE



AUGUST 2015

VOLUME 11: ISSUE 8

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

**POST COMMANDER
JIM BOLIN**



COMMANDER'S CORNER

This past month the Texas Department of The American Legion held its Annual Convention to elect a new commander, receive reports of committees, and to distribute rewards for above-average participation in their programs. In addition, the Post itself presented an award to its **Immediate Past Commander Pete Koch** for a job well done during the last three years. Our Post also gained a couple of awards in some of the other contests, which delegate **Kim Biggerstaff** collected for the Post. The Post won a Certificate from the Department for submitting its Consolidated Post Report by the deadline and a plaque for retaining 100% of our eligible members. The Post competed in several other contests against other Texas Posts, and we did better than most. Submitting product to be

judged was **Post Historian Win Salter**. He submitted the required Historian's set of two books. He won two awards: second place for the Post History Book and third place for Post Yearbook. Next were awards presented by TEXALPA (Texas American Legion Press Association), which typically presents awards for Post newsletters, websites, and Facebook. **Webmaster Emery Heuermann's** Post website won second place, and **Kim Biggerstaff** won first place in the Facebook category. Congratulations to all who participated and especially to the winners.

In a change that makes sense in this season, we are going to move the Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags indoors. Since we are not permitted to actually burn any flags, our Ceremony has had to be staged. We decided in the membership meeting that if we were pretending to burn a flag, we would like to pretend it in a cooler setting. That means the Ceremony will be in the air conditioned banquet room used by the Post for its meeting. The Ceremony will begin around 6:45 PM, and we should be finished by 7:00 PM, the meeting start time. So, come a little early so you won't be closed off during the Ceremony.

Getting over the rookie mistakes, I will finally remember

that it takes a Charter to Drape the Charter. I forgot it last meeting, so we were not able to remember the late **Rudy Charest**.

At the next meeting, we will have a guest speaker; **Jack Hickey** who is a tennis-playing friend of mine. He got in on the end of WWII and later served in Korea as an artillery liaison to the infantry. **Jack** has a knack of seeing things differently than most of us, so his presentation at the beginning of the meeting should be interesting. Come on out and have a little fun with us.

In the months ahead, I will need some people to head up the committees that make the Post run. I will be talking to you individually at the meeting, and I hope that you will be able to help out on a committee. Now don't miss the meeting to get out of being a Committee Chair or member. And, I don't need the meeting to speak with you.

Remember our troops in harm's way and pray for their safe return.

**Jim Bolin
Commander**

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
(July 16, 2015)

Commander Jim Bolin opened the meeting, as called for in the Legion Rituals. He then asked **Sergeant-at-Arms Carl Smith** whether there were any visitors. There were none,

so the meeting progressed to calling for a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 18th meeting. There being no dissenters, the minutes were approved as presented. Next was the presenting of the Financial Report by outgoing **Finance Officer Jim Bolin**. (This is the end of his term.) **Jim** reported that the General Fund had a balance of \$8,171.85 and the Fidelity Investment Account \$30,426.20 (a reduction in earnings of \$341.24). Being that it was the end of a quarter, **Jim** presented the Year-End Budget of the Post for 2014-2015: Total receipts were \$18,199.64, (shown minus \$4,950 from the Nanninga Boys State Trust), while expenses totaled \$21,821.96, a difference of minus \$3,622.32 to the General Fund. Next, the awards noted in the Commander's remarks were presented to the winning members.

Under Membership, **First Vice Commander Pete Koch** noted that there were many thousand veterans living in Montgomery County, and the Post needs to enlist more of them. Pete also had discussed the subject of a regular regional American Legion Internet radio broadcast, of "talk-show" type, with officers of the Department at the Convention. All were excited about what could be, but a lot needs to be ironed out before the Legion has its own radio talk-show. Pete made clear that if it was to be tried, more than Post 305 must lead.

Emery Heuermann moved to change the location of the Flag Disposal Ceremony to indoors, giving the rationale. The motion passed so, the Flag Disposal Ceremony will be held in the large meeting room beginning

at 6:45 PM, but participating officers should arrive by 6:30 PM to set up the "square".

Historian Lacey Homan reported that she is obtaining the Post-owned bookmaking materials and the books prepared for the Post since 2009 from **Win Salter**.

Under Unfinished Business, we were informed that the Post's 31 boys entered into the Boy's State Program was the second largest delegation in the State. Also, **Dayton Denton**, Boys State program manager, would like to invite the Boy's State graduates and their family members to an honor ceremony and dinner on a night when there is no membership meeting, so that the affair is not competing for time with other business and in view of the number of likely participants. Some discussion of such a move took place, but with **Dayton** absent, the proposal was tabled.

New Business saw a new day for Draping the Charter for **Rudy Charest** established as the next meeting of the Post membership. Also the membership ratified a passed email motion to donate \$200.00 to a comrade in distress on **Kim Biggerstaff's** recommendation.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was closed in the usual manner. A meal of ribs and sausage with pasta salad was furnished by the Auxiliary.

**SUMMER CAMP AT SEA:
A FAMILY CRUISE TO
COZUMEL, MEXICO**

At the May 21, 2015, membership meeting, Post member **Dennis Bell**, along with his wife, **Peggy**, made a presen-

tation to a joint session of the Post and Auxiliary. "Bell's Travel & Cruises" of Conroe is his business, and he had a proposition and opportunity to present. He would like to put together a cruise group of members of the Post and Unit, and their extended family members plus friends, for a Carnival Cruise Line sail to Cozumel, Mexico. That would be a four-night, "Summer Camp At Sea", in July of 2016. As a "summer camp", there is no limit on the age of children. The ship, "Carnival Liberty", would sail from Galveston on July 7, 2016, and return on July 11, 2016.

With the proposed cruise a year away, what's the rush about considering it? And, why is The Bugle seeming to promote it? This notice is out of keeping with Bugle policy, unless the newsletter is resuming commercial ads. The answers to those questions are: (1) The group is limited to 50 staterooms (two to five persons each), and the choice of stateroom class will be reduced with time: and (2) The expense of the experience will be returned, in part, to Legion Post 305 by Carnival Lines. That fundraising aspect entitles The Bugle to participate in informing the members of this opportunity.

Dennis Bell, at (281) 681-1707 or bellstravel@att.net, can supply you with more details and take your reservation. The range of cost is from \$859 to \$474 per person, depending on cabin class and number of occupants, including taxes and fees. Those rates are subject to availability.

So, check your 2016 schedule; find out if the grandchild is graduating; spread the word to family members and friends;

get more info from Dennis' office; and seriously consider such a break next summer. Reservations (\$150 per person) are being taken now. Balance is not due until next year. This is a Post 305 fundraiser!



VETERANS ADVOCATE

HOMELESS VETERANS' CENTER CLOSED BY VA FUNDING CUT-OFF

U.S. Senator Michael Rounds (R-SD), a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, sent a letter to Department of Veterans Affairs' Secretary Robert McDonald asking for more information regarding the announced closure of the Homeless Veteran Outreach Center (operated by Volunteers of America) in Sioux Falls. In June, the Center - which has served more than 1,200 veterans - was notified that its contract would not be renewed. According to news reports, the contract was not renewed in an effort to make up for a \$7 million budget shortfall this year.

"It is disheartening to see the VA cut programs that make a difference in our veterans' lives at the same time the agency is plagued with mismanagement," wrote Rounds in the letter. "As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, protecting our most vulnerable veterans is a

DO YOU REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN-----?

- ~ The Post achieved its "All Time High" in membership for the seventh consecutive year? It was the period 2007-2008. In the following period, when the annual goal was 424, by December 31, 2008, the paid-up membership was at 410 - 97% of goal !
- ~ The annual dues were \$31.00 (as now) and the Department voted to require \$2.50 additional from every dues payment? The Post voted to hold its dues at \$31.00 while keeping \$2.50 less from its share. The year was 1999.
- ~ The Post proudly sponsored three high school juniors to Boys State? It was 2001.
- ~ At each Rummage Sale, the Auxiliary set up and ran a "Hot Dog Stand" for added revenue? It included a sound system that played recorded music of old favorites. That was the practice in the early 2000's.

priority for me. I am open to work with you to reduce waste in the VA and find savings within the bureaucratic system. However, I am not supportive of balancing the VA's budget on the backs of homeless veterans."

SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' BUSINESSES FAVORED BY SBA

Recently, the Small Business Administration (SBA) released their annual Federal Small Business Scorecard. The annually-issued "Scorecard" is an assessment tool that measures how well Federal agencies reach their small business and socio-economic prime contracting and subcontracting goals and reports on agency-specific progress. The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-50) established an annual government-wide goal of not less than three percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans. This year, the Federal government set a new record of achievement of rewarding contracting dollars to service-disabled, veteran-owned small

businesses (SDVOSB's). The SBA's procurement "Scorecard" reported that, for the third year in a row, the Federal government has met its commitment to goal for SDVOSB's. In FY 2014, 3.68% of all federal contracting dollars - \$13.5 billion - went to SDVOSB's, the highest number yet. This achievement ensures that veteran business owners have a fair opportunity to compete in the federal marketplace.

DOD'S NEW COUNSELING SERVICES FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

With DOD's current family counseling contract with Vets4Warriors expiring this month, the Department will continue to provide peer-to-peer support to active duty, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers, their families and veterans who have separated within the last 180 days. The new service is to help family members with a host of issues and will be available through Military OneSource, according to Rosemary Freitas Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense For Military Community and Family Policy.

The offered assistance will be by counselors with military experience and at least a

masters degree in the social psychology field. A client can talk to a peer-to-peer counselor via Military OneSource and can obtain up to 12 sessions with a clinical counselor, if needed.

“The peer-to-peer approach gets after the issue at the earliest possible point of intervention, so folks who get help early get better quicker,” said Dr. Keita Franklin, the Director of the Defense Suicide Prevention Office. While Military OneSource does not provide crises counseling service, it works with other organizations such as Military Crises Line and Veterans Crises Line, as necessary, she noted.

For more information about the services provided by Military OneSource, call toll-free:

1-800-342-9647 or visit

www.militaryonesource.mil.

[Source: DOD News via “Leatherneck” magazine; July 2015.]

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

THE LAST AMERICAN GI KILLED IN WORLD WAR II

As a result of the two atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima

and Nagasaki in August 1945, 70 years ago, Imperial Japan surrendered unconditionally. The war’s end was not abrupt; perhaps no war ends abruptly, considering the far-flung combatants and the die-hards who refuse to lay down their arms and go home. Maybe that was the case at Appomattox in 1865, but it was not the case in 1918, nor in 1945.

In Tokyo, Emperor Hirohito and his senior advisors were wondering whether another city would soon disappear under a mushroom cloud. He had made a radio broadcast on August 15, announcing the decision to surrender, but was shocked by events following that broadcast. It had sparked an Army coup intended to reverse the surrender order, and naval and air units were in open revolt, vowing to fight to the last man. The US and its allies could well have seen the “surrender” as a delaying tactic, giving Japan more time to organize its defenses. Among the die-hards were several of the finest fighter pilots in the Imperial Navy. On August 18, members of an elite air group agreed to commit mutiny for the second time in as many days. This group had been tasked with the defense of the greater Tokyo-Yokohama region. Despite official orders of naval headquarters to cease attacks on allied aircraft, many pilots of the Tokyo group, and others elsewhere in Japan, felt the nation’s airspace should remain inviolate until a formal surrender document had actually been signed.

Early on August 15, carriers of Vice Admiral John S. McCain’s Task Force 38 had launched 103 fighters and attack aircraft to sweep the Tokyo area. Although some had already been engaged by Japanese

interceptors, all were recalled to their carriers, as President Truman ordered suspension of all operations against Japan.

At 7:00 AM on August 18, a huge USAAC B-32 heavy bomber (named “Hobo Queen II”) aligned itself to take off from Yonton air base on the coast of Okinawa. The aircraft, part of the 386th Bombardment Squadron, was one of four to fly a routine photo-recon mission over Tokyo, 900 miles to the north. Japan had accepted the Allies’ terms of unconditional surrender four days earlier. The mission was to photograph several Japanese military airfields in the Tokyo metropolitan area. The reason was twofold: To verify that Japanese aircraft were being kept on the ground in compliance with the cease-fire terms; and to determine whether the fields were in good enough condition to handle the heavy-laden transports that would help bring in the occupation troops. Each B-32 was assigned a zone to cover by back-and-forth passes at 20,000 feet elevation.

The crews and their photographic supercargo were apprehensive because on the previous day a similar flight of four B-32’s had been attacked and damaged by Japanese fighters whose pilots had apparently not heard of the ceasefire ordered by Japan’s Emperor or, more ominously, had chosen to ignore it.

As the “Hobo Queen II” took off, four young airmen were belted into seats in the aft cabin. Two were gunners, who would take their positions in the top and tail turrets, and the other two were assigned to the 20th Reconnaissance Squadron as aerial photographers. The latter were 29-year-old Staff Sergeant

Joseph Lacharite and 20-year-old Sergeant Anthony Marchione.

The Consolidated-Vultee B-32, "Dominator", was developed concurrently with the Boeing B-29 "Super-fortress", but was plagued by development and design problems more than the B-29. Delays, redesign, rejections, acceptance testing and combat testing prevented production until late 1944. Early deployment to Far East Air Forces occurred when FEAF commander Major General George C. Kenney pleaded unsuccessfully for B-29's, and accepted the untried B-32 instead.



When the "Hobo Queen II" was in its pre-flight check, it was found that the ball turret retraction mechanism was inoperative and that the nose turret was partially inoperative, requiring manual control to traverse its twin 50's. These problems were not serious enough to abort the photo-recon mission. As the four B-32's, in loose formation, were two hours airborne, the lead aircraft and one other developed engine oil leaks, and aborted the mission, returning to Okinawa, leaving "Hobo" as the lead ship. When the two B-32's reached their Honshu landfall, their sensors picked up emissions of Japanese early-warning radar. They jammed the AAA signals and separated to their assigned photo run areas.

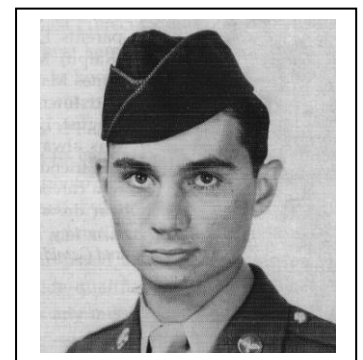
By 1:00 PM, the same maverick naval pilots that attacked US

photo-recon planes the day before spotted the glint of Hobo's aluminum skin. In short order, the Dominator crew saw Japanese fighters taking off, and they received anti-aircraft bursts just astern. The pilot, First Lieutenant James L. Klein, banked the plane, headed out to sea and climbed for altitude. As the plane reached the sea, a Zero attacked and was shot down. But, over the next 25 minutes, ten or more fighters attacked from all directions. Klein put the B-32 into a steep dive, and, with opened throttles, outran the attackers. Levelling off at 1,000 feet, Klein set a course for Okinawa. But, three or four experienced Japanese fighters went after the bomber and resumed the attack. The forward top turret gunner scored and the targeted enemy plane exploded. A second fighter likewise exploded as it made an abeam pass and was hit by rounds from the nose turret. Another fighter attacked from 12 o'clock high and its 20mm cannon rounds hit the Dominator's wings and one engine. Another round hit the rear top turret, sending shards of plexiglass into the gunner's forehead and temple. He -- Sergeant Jimmie F. Smart -- dropped to the fuselage floor where the two photo-recon airmen were trying to spot and call out incoming fighters. Within seconds an unseen attacker poured rounds into the aft cabin, hitting Joe Lacharite in both legs. Tony Marchione, using a piece of equipment cord, put a tourniquet on one leg, reported their status and called for help on the intercom. Photo officer Second Lieutenant Kurt F. Rupke came back from his nose position and put a second tourniquet on the other leg of Lacharite. Seconds later, another 20mm round punched

through the fuselage and struck Marchione squarely in the chest. Rubke knelt beside him; still alive and conscious, surrounded by a pool a blood. Rupke gave such comfort as he could but recognized the wound was fatal. Other crewmen appeared to help with the other wounded, but Tony Marchione died about 30 minutes after he was hit, six days past his 20th birthday.

Pilot Klein dropped the B-32 to 1,000 feet and accelerated his three good engines, headed for home. The last attacker tried to follow and was able to put a few rounds in the crippled bomber's rudder, but then broke off the attack and turned for his base.

Twelve hours after taking off, "Hobo Queen II" made a non-standard approach and touched down. It was met by ambulances, ground personnel and "every colonel in the Fifth Air Force", long before reaching its hardstand. Tony Marchione's body and the wounded were cared for, and the able crew members were hustled to a briefing tent.



In the aftermath, Supreme Commander Allied Powers, General Douglas MacArthur, made the unpopular decision not to retaliate, possibly due to debriefings of the crews of several B-32's and F-7B's (the photo-recon B-24) who were attacked in the days of August. Those debriefings revealed the

attacks were “uneager” and seemed somewhat haphazard in their execution. Even the crew of “Hobo Queen II” agreed the Japanese attacks did not seem coordinated or organized. Other B-32 crews had overflown several enemy airbases where parked aircraft were seen, yet no fighters rose to challenge them.

Thus, as the war ended, **Sergeant Anthony J. Marchione, USAAF**, of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, was the final death by enemy action, based on American and Japanese records.

[Excerpted from *Last To Die* by Stephen Harding; DaCapo Press; 2015.]

WHERE IS THE BUGLE’S AUXILIARY PAGE?

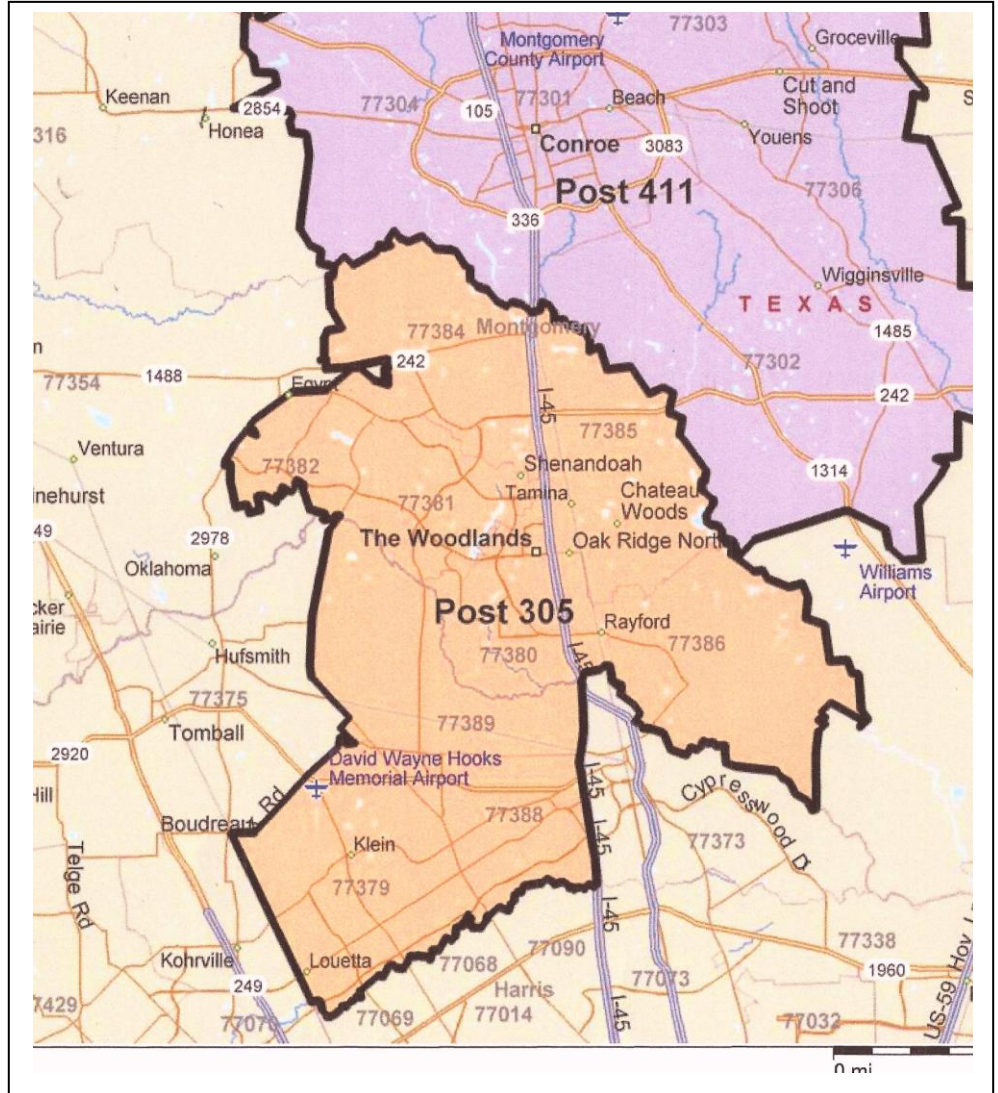
This month all of the senior officers of the Auxiliary are on vacation, or out of town, resting up or otherwise not available. They will return next month and inform you of what is planned for the late summer and early fall season. If you need to reach any of the ladies of the Unit, their contact info is displayed at the bottom of this page.

WHAT ZIP CODES DOES THE POST INCLUDE?

The Bugle suspects some Post members (and many of Post 345 members) are unsure of

the extent of the Post geographically. If you are among those, please find your “Map Reading 101” and consult the graphic below. Post 305 is defined by the peach-colored area, because all is “peachy” at the Post. We are the southern-most of the Seventh District’s 23 Posts.

A Post member or veteran candidate does not have to reside within the bounds of the Post. We have members in Conroe, in Houston, beyond the region in Texas and in several other States. Where boundaries do apply is in the seeking of new members, especially transfers from Post 345.



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
- 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
 - Mary Bolin; Tel. (281) 251-2352; Email: jpb20006@sbcglobal.net

GET YOUR NEW VA ID CARD!



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
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	Flag Disposal Ceremony	So. County Community Center @ 6:30 PM
Thur.	Aug. 20	Membership Meetings	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Wed.	Sept. 2	VJ Day – Japan Signs Surrender	USS Missouri (1945)
Fri.	Sept. 11	Patriot Day (“9/11”)	
Mon.	Sept. 14	Executive Committee Meeting	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Wed.	Sept. 16 to Sept. 20	Department Executive Committee Meeting	Omni Colonnade Hotel, San Antonio
Thur.	Sept. 17	Membership Meetings	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Wed.	Oct. 7	Afghanistan War Began (2001)	
Mon.	Oct. 12	Columbus Day	
Mon.	Oct. 12	Executive Committee Meeting	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Oct. 15	Membership Meetings	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Oct. 16	Fall Rummage Sale – Set-Up Day	Robinson Road Community Ctr. @ 7:00 AM
Sat.	Oct. 17	Rummage Sale – Sale Day	
Sat.	Oct. 17	District 7 Fall Convention	Post 615; New Caney
Tues.	Oct. 27	Navy Day	
Sat.	Oct. 31	Halloween	Trick or treat!

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 Heuerman	(281) 362-8431	emeryheuerman@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 SCRIBE: 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 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.