



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 “ THE WOODLANDS POST ” THE BUGLE



NOVEMBER 2015

VOLUME 11: ISSUE 11

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 daunting as the October schedule of events appeared, we managed to get through it all with some surprising results. You all remember the rummage sale and the results we have been getting over the past couple of years, well, we did better than we could imagine. Not only did we have plenty of help, we rolled up \$1,319.97, less the rent of the Community Center and possibly some other small expenses. That compares to around \$700 from the previous sale, less the same expenses. As far as help is concerned, we had more help than I can credit by name, but I want to thank all who came out to our rescue.

We also had the Oktoberfest Picnic at Shadowbend Park. Not as many people as usual attended, but those that were there had a great time of talking to one another. That is something we don't always have time for at a meeting.

Commander Kim Biggerstaff conducted a terrific Fall District 7 Convention. We had an opening talk by former **State Commander Butch Sparks** and an informative class on the duties of the Adjutant by our own **Everett Ison**.



Left: Past State Commander Butch Sparks Keynotes the District 7 Fall Convention.



Right: District Commander Kimberly Biggerstaff Presents Award To Post 305's Everett Ison, a Presenter.



Above: Part of the Post 305's and Auxiliary Delegation: L. to R. Everett Ison, Rosalie Fryer and Geri Mulvihill.

All who attended the October 31st Veterans BBQ, sponsored by the Montgomery County Constable, had a good meal and met some interesting people. We did our job of maintaining order, help get guests to seats and keep them

moving, so we handled the crowd very smoothly.

A new and exciting event will take place on November 3rd. It is the Post and Auxiliary evening to honor and celebrate the latest Boys State and Girls State attendees who were sponsored through the Post and Unit. It starts at 7:00 PM at the South County Community Center, the same place we have our monthly meetings. This will not be a just another Legion meeting, it will be a celebration of the time that the attendees had at Austin as a person, one who didn't know what he or she was getting into until it was too late. We want to hear their stories about their trials and tribulations. Certificates of Appreciation will be awarded by **Program Chairman Dayton Denton**. Light refreshments will be available.

Coming up on November 11th is Veteran's Day. There is a lot going on, enjoy it. The day is for honoring all who served and that includes you as a veteran. You can get a free meal, go to a school and listen to the children's programs, or go to a high school's stadium and watch a parade in your honor. Whatever you choose, do something.

Finally to top off the month we will have the Post's Thanksgiving Dinner following the business meeting on November 19th. There will be plenty of

turkey and other holiday treats. If you are able, I ask you to bring something for the food line. The more the merrier.

One thing I need to make clear. The Post has been forced to raise its dues to \$36. That price will be in effect as of January 1, 2016. Before that, the dues remain at \$31. It seems to make sense to send your dues in before the price changes. I would also suggest that you avoid sending your check over the holidays. It is too easy to lose stuff in the mail at that time of year or have it delayed. Mail it early or bring it to a membership meeting. If you are inclined to move up to a PUFL, that cost is also going up, so the one-time payment is now as low as it will ever be. Make your choice, get it done and have a happy holiday season.

Jim Bolin
Commander

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
(October 15, 2015)

In Shadowbend Park on a lovely evening, **Commander Bolin** opened the meeting in the usual manner. That was the only thing normal. The **Commander** reminded the membership in attendance of all the coming up obligations that the Post had made to help celebrate Veteran's Day. Then, he called upon the membership to vote on increasing membership dues by \$5 to \$36 per annum. By voice vote, the motion passed. Then, further business was suspended for this meeting only, and the membership got down to the important matter of feasting on brats and hot dogs, cooked by **Harlen Thornhill** or hamburgers cooked by **Dayton Denton**. The fixings for the

above main meal were furnished by the Auxiliary and its designated chief cook, **Veronica Maiolo**. The fun lasted until lights out at 9:00 PM, when we packed up and moved out.

Our next gathering is on Election Day, November 3rd, when we salute our 2015 Boys State and Girls State grads. The next membership meeting will be on November 19th, where the pot-luck supper turns into a Thanksgiving Dinner. Make plans to attend both of these events.



VETERANS ADVOCATE

NO COLA IN 2016;
HIGHER PART B PREMIUMS
POSSIBLE

The government announced this week that there will be no cost-of-living-adjustment-COLA next year for millions of military and federal civilian retirees, for Social Security recipients, and for veterans and survivors receiving Department of Veterans Affairs checks. COLA increases are tied to the Consumer Price Index, which has been flat due to low gasoline prices. Even so, some Medicare Part B enrollees -- those who delayed receiving Social Security and those who are not eligible -- could see their premiums increased by more than half, from the basic \$105 per person per month to \$159. Higher earners would pay more. A White House



THE BUGLE

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Monthly Meetings: 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, except in October*. The Center is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Lake Robbins Drive and Grogan's Mill Road, next to the library. Meetings are followed by a pot-luck supper provided by the Auxiliary.

*In October, a combined, short meeting precedes the Annual Picnic in Shadowbend Park.

spokesman acknowledged that the potential premium increase was an unintended consequence resulting from calculating COLA adjustments. There have been Part B increases in the past but a 50% increase in one year is unprecedented. Congress is working to prevent this from happening.

VA LAUNCHES MOBILE APP TO ANSWER GENERAL BENEFITS QUESTIONS

VA has launched “311 Vet”, which allows veterans to ask questions regarding VA benefits through a mobile app or text message. If a veteran’s question is in VA’s database, the answer will appear instantly. Questions not in VA’s database are routed to benefits specialists, who VA says will respond within minutes. For more information, visit the website:

<http://www.311vet.com/>.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET DEAL CLEARS CONGRESS

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed a newly announced two-year budget deal with a vote of 392 to 37; the Senate followed suit early Friday morning with a 64-35 vote. The deal was the result of negotiations between congressional leadership and the White House. It would increase the Budget Control Act budget caps that were established in 2011 by providing an \$80 billion budget increase, divided equally among defense and domestic accounts, over the next two years. Although the deal fails to permanently repeal sequestration, it does provide DOD and VA two years of budget predictability near the President’s requested levels, which would improve the administration’s ability to carry

out a strong national defense strategy and fully support service members, veterans and their families. The deal would also fix the Social Security disability insurance shortfall, reduce the Medicare Part B premium increase for this year for those expecting an increase, and raise the debt limit. The bill now heads to the President for his signature.

SEA KNIGHT RETIRED

For more than half a century, the Boeing-Vertol supplied CH-46 “Sea Knight” helicopter has been a mainstay “bus”, “ambulance” and “truck” in support of ground troops, principally Marines. In August, the Sea Knight was retired from active duty, to be replaced by the MV-22B “Osprey”, a tiltrotor aircraft which handles three-times the payload and is twice as fast. The deployed officers and men who crewed or were the “cargo” of the Sea Knight affectionately called the helicopter “The Phrog”. Phrogs were first in service in Vietnam, and lastly appeared there hovering over the consulate evacuating US and South Vietnam personnel. It served in every US engagement since – Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and lesser known incursions and rescues.



Quoting one ex-GI: “Goodbye, friend. Thanks for all the rides out of hot landing zones!” Retirement of the Phrogs to the Davis-Monthan desert “boneyard” was bittersweet news to retired Lt. Colonel Bill Hatch

who flew CH-46’s during his entire 26-year career as a Marine. In his words: “Anytime we got the call, we went. It did not matter what was going on or how much shooting was there. We were going to get the grunts out!”

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

IT’S ABOUT TIME!

If in the early morning hours of this Sunday, you failed to reset your timepieces by one hour, you are now someplace else – maybe Atlanta; maybe Salt Lake. That semi-annual ritual of changing in and out of Daylight Saving Time (DST) has a long and interesting history, if you have the time.

The concept of shifting the time reference to experience the longer summer-time day began in New Zealand by entomologist George V. Hudson in 1895. But, credit, if that’s the word, goes also to British builder and outdoorsman William Willett who proposed in 1905 setting clocks ahead by 20 minutes on each of four Sundays in April. Although both men published their independent proposals and rationale, it wasn’t until 1908 when a British

parliament member (and fan of Willett) – Robert Pearce – introduced a bill in the House of Commons to adopt DST.

Despite an evaluation by a select committee, the bill failed to become law thanks to opposition by farmers in particular. Supporter Willett lobbied for the change until his death in 1915. Throughout England, there were strong pro and con arguments among government, political, scientific, farming, and commercial leaders. The US took note but was even more skeptical. In May 1909, Maine Congressman Andrew Peters introduced a bill to embrace DST (called “fast time”), but it died in committee.

World War I changed things. In 1916, Germany and the Central Powers applied DST to conserve coal in wartime, and the allies and other European countries followed suit. Corporate America’s retailing and manufacturing interests soon began lobbying for DST, but were opposed by the railroads. The US entry to the war in 1917 overcame objections, and DST was first established in 1918. But, the war’s end swung the pendulum back. Farmers continued to dislike DST, and many countries repealed it after the war. Britain was an exception; it retained DST kingdom-wide over the years, but adjusted the transition dates for various reasons.

The US repealed DST after 1919. President Woodrow Wilson, who enjoyed golf, vetoed the repeal twice, but his second veto was overridden. Only a few US cities retained DST thereafter and New York was one. The stock market and other financial exchanges wanted to align themselves

better with London, and Chicago, Pittsburgh, Boston and Cleveland retained DST to keep pace with New York.

Wilson’s successor Warren G. Harding opposed DST as a “deception”, reasoning that the people should instead get up and go to work earlier in the summer. He ordered District of Columbia federal workers to start work at 8:00 AM rather than 9:00 AM during the summer of 1922. In general, DST was abandoned in the years between the world wars, with the exception of the UK, Canada, Ireland and France, and was brought back for periods of time in different places. President Franklin Roosevelt instituted year-round DST nationally in 1942, called “war time”, and the zones became “Eastern War Time”, etc. War time ended after VJ Day in September 1945. Great Britain applied “Double Summer Time” during the war, setting clocks two hours ahead of GMT during the summer and one hour ahead during the winter.

From 1945 to 1966, there was widespread confusion in the US about time schedules of many things – buses, trains and broadcasts, to name just three. States and localities were free to choose when and if they would observe DST. There have been times when on opposite sides of state lines and county lines clocks differed. In 1965, St. Paul and adjacent Minneapolis were on different times – one on DST and the other on Standard Time until a later date. Congress stepped in and passed the Uniform Time Act of 1965, setting the dates of the one-hour change, but the Act allowed states to exempt themselves by ordinance from conforming.

The energy crisis (oil embargo) of 1973 caused DST to be widely adopted in North America and Europe, but it ended in the US in 1976. Then, in the mid-1980’s, the US saw a push to make it a national matter, and the US changed its policy in 1987, fueled by a “Daylight Saving Time Coalition”, funded by a few corporations. Still further changes were made in DST policy by passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The current policy follows that Act, and most of the states conform. The exceptions are Hawaii and most of Arizona, plus the territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Guam.

THANKSGIVING: HOW DID IT BEGIN?

The Pilgrims, as we all know, settled finally at Plymouth Bay in 1620. In the following spring, their ship, the Mayflower, returned to Europe, and not one Pilgrim deserted the Plymouth colony. By early 1621, they had built crude huts and a common-house on the shores of the Bay. Soon, neighboring Indians began to develop relations with the settlers. **Squanto**, a local Indian, who had been kidnapped and taken to England nearly a decade before, served as an interpreter with the local tribes. Squanto taught the Pilgrims to fertilize the soil with dried fish remains to produce abundant crops. **Massasoit**, the chief of the nearby Wampanoags, signed a treaty with the Pilgrims in the summer. In exchange for assistance with defense against the feared Narragansett tribe, Massasoit supplemented the food supply of the Pilgrims for the first few years.

Successful colonies require effective leadership, and for the Plymouth colony that was **William Bradford**. After the first governor elected under the Mayflower Compact perished from the harsh winter, Bradford was elected governor for the next 30 years. In May 1621, he performed the colony's first marriage ceremony. And, relations with the local natives remained relatively smooth.

By the autumn of 1621, the Pilgrims had much to be thankful for. After the harvest, Massasoit and about 90 other Indians joined the Pilgrims for the great English tradition of a harvest festival. The participants celebrated for three days, dining on venison, goose, duck, fish, lobster, eel, corn-bread and probably pumpkin and cranberries, all as a result of the bountiful harvest. The annual harvest festival tradition in the autumn continued into the following years. The Pilgrims had no idea of the thanksgiving tradition they and the Indians started. They were simply giving thanks for survival..

Some Thanksgiving Facts:

~ Many historians believe only five women were present at that first Thanksgiving, Many of the women settlers did not survive that first year or were too weak to celebrate.

~ Although the tradition continued, it did not become a national holiday until 200 years later. Sarah Josepha Hale, who wrote the classic song; "Mary Had A Little Lamb", convinced President Lincoln, in 1863, to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. She had campaigned by letters for 17 years for such recognition.

~ The first Thanksgiving feast was eaten with spoons and

knives. Forks were not introduced until 10 years later, but were not popular until the 18th century.

~ Thanksgiving caused TV dinners to be created. In 1953, Swanson had 260 tons of extra turkey, and a salesman suggested packaging it in aluminum trays along with some side dishes like sweet potatoes. The concept took off!

**POST 305
AUXILIARY
UNIT NEWS**
President: Jenny Hamann

[**President Hamann** is "under the weather" and recuperating. Her column was provided by **VP Kathy Carroll** and **Parliamentarian Rosalie Fryer**.]

The Fall always seems to be a busy time for everyone. Our October meeting was the wonderful annual picnic with the Post at Shadowbend Park. The Legionnaires did a great job cooking the meat and the Unit brought all the trimmings. It was a great get together and enjoyed by all.

The 7th District Fall Convention was held on October 17th, hosted by Holbrook Post 615 in New Caney. It was a fun and informative day. During the joint session, Past State Commander C. W. "Butch" Sparks gave an inspiring speech about the history and accomplishments of the American Legion. He also reminded us that as we continue to work on the goals of the Legion, it is also up to us to promote membership.

This Tuesday, November 3rd, at 7:00 PM at the Community Center where we usually meet, the Auxiliary and the Legion will be honoring our Girls State young ladies and the Boys

State young men, who were sponsored by us last June. We expect to hear how much they enjoyed their week learning about our government. Ladies please come and help welcome our Girl State grads.

Veterans Day is approaching so it is time to distribute Poppies. The Auxiliary will do so on November 6th and 9th at both Post Offices in the Woodlands. We are in need of volunteers. If you are able to assist, call Rosalie at 936-520-8895.

On November 19th, we will have our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner for the Unit and the Legion members. Bring some new members and come hungry.

As you know, the Unit is doing a fundraiser with Yankee Candle Company. Please do your Christmas shopping with them and help our Unit fund. We receive 40% of the sales made by members or friends, and so far we have raised about \$300. The program will continue online until January 5, 2016, so shop there over the holidays and suggest your friends do likewise. Just visit: yankeecandlefundraising.com and enter our group number [990085630].

Treasurer Dayna Salter recently sent out information about the female veterans that our Unit will support this Christmas. One of these vets has children, so please choose someone that you can make happy during the holidays.

Thanks to all members for your hard work helping our veterans. And, offer a prayer for Jenny and for Mary Lee Mulvihill.

Kathy Carroll, Vice President
Rosalie Fryer Parliamentarian

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Tues.	Nov. 3	Election Day	
Tues.	Nov. 3	Boys State/Girls State Assembly	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Tues.	Nov. 10	Marine Corps Founded (1775)	Tun Tavern, Philadelphia
Wed.	Nov. 11	Veterans Day	Honor All Who Served!
Mon.	Nov. 16	Executive Committee Meeting	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Nov. 19	Membership Meetings	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day	Reflect On All We Still Have!
Mon.	Dec. 7	Pearl Harbor Day	"A Day Which Will Live In Infamy!"
Mon.	Dec. 14	Executive Committee Meeting	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Dec. 17	Membership Meetings (Holiday)	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	"The Stockings Were Hung By The Chimney
Fri.	Dec. 25	Christmas Day	With Care"
Thur.	Dec.31	New Years Eve	Auld Lang Syne
Fri.	Jan. 1	New Years Day	Happy New Year!
Fri.	Jan. 1	Post Dues Just Increased By \$5 to \$36 Per Annum	

POST & AUXILIARY UNIT CONTACT INFORMATION (2015-2016)

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEL. NO.</u>	<u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u>
POST 305			
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 Heuermann	(281) 362-8431	emeryheuermann@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	(Open)		
JUDGE ADVOCATE	Everett Ison	(281) 298-9524	everett.ison@sprint.com
HISTORIAN	Lacey Homan	(832) 704-2732	lkhoman44@aol.com
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POSITION ONE	Dayton Denton	(832) 928-6054	whselfstorage1@yahoo.com
POSITION TWO	Win Salter	(281) 370-1912	flintyeye@gmail.com
AUXILIARY UNIT 305			
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VICE PRESIDENT	Kathy Carroll	(281) 323-4985	kcarroll47@sbcglobal.net
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HISTORIAN	(Open)		
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PARLIAMENTARIAN	Rosalie Fryer	(936) 520-8895	rcfryer@consolidated.net
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Annie Smith	(281) 757-3967	carl12024@yahoo.com
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POSITION THREE	Mary Bolin	(281) 251-2352	jpb20006@sbcglobal.net