



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 “ THE WOODLANDS POST ” THE BUGLE



OCTOBER 2015

VOLUME 11: ISSUE 10

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

**POST COMMANDER
JIM BOLIN**



We have a busy time of year as we enter the month of October.

Like an eagle on payday, we have received the expected check from the Birdies For Charity in the amount \$2,175.58. This sum will be divided between the Post and Unit: \$975.58 to the Post and \$1,200.00 to the Auxiliary. I want to thank all of you who made guesses as to total birdies and thereby made a donation to the Post or Unit.

Next, we have the October Annual Picnic at Shadowbend Park. This includes a short meeting followed by a lot of good food and comradeship. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM as usual. The Post furnishes and cooks the burgers, dogs, and brats, and the Auxiliary brings the fixens.

The next day after the picnic is set up time for the Fall Rummage Sale. We meet around 8:00 AM at the Robinson Road Community Center. Those with trucks will take

those without trucks over to the storage facility where we have stored items that have been donated for the rummage sale. We generally get done bringing the goods over from storage to the Community Center by noon. Time to snack on the food left over from the picnic! We all are getting a little older, so we could use any help of Post and Unit members, if you could spare the time.

The rummage sale goes on into Saturday. We have to be closed up by 4:00 PM, but then we need help to pick everything up, so if you didn't make it on Friday, come on by on Saturday. You will be most welcome.

Also going on Saturday is the 7th District Convention, hosted by Post 615 (New Caney) at the East Montgomery County Improvement District Building. Tentatively, there will be a training session for Adjutants during the Business Session to last approximately an hour. The Post is also on the spot to bring a bottle of booze for the Booze Wagon that is raffled off during the meeting. We also buy \$40 worth of raffle tickets as our part in the raffle. During the meeting we will honor our deceased members. The Traveling Trophy, which we have won for baseball caps and other donations, will be canned goods, non-perishables and/or baby supplies. The winner will be determined by the number of

items donated. You can bring those items to the picnic meeting

On October 31st, the Montgomery County Constable is having a BBQ for all the veterans of Montgomery County. The BBQ will be in the large room of the South County Community Center (SCCC). He has asked for our help, and we have told him that we will have some people there to help. From what I understand, that means to help people to find a place to sit. So if you are interested, you are welcome. Bring some membership applications just in case one of the attendees would like to be a member of the Post.

Every year the Post celebrates the returning Boy's State attendees with some remembrances' and a Thanksgiving sized supper. However, the Post must conduct some business, limiting the time for recognizing the Boy's State attendees. **Dayton Denton**, the Boy's State program manager, wants to try something different, given the large number of boys and girls sponsored by the Post and Auxiliary. At Dayton's suggestion, a special meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3rd to which all sponsored Boys State and Girls State grads and their parents are invited, to be introduced and honored. The gathering will commence at 7:00 PM in the same large room of the SCCC

as we usually meet. There will be a short opening ceremony to make it under the auspices of the Post. From then on **Dayton** will take over as master of ceremonies. The Post and Auxiliary request your attendance to help honor these accomplished youths. Come on out and find out how it works for you.

Now, I have spent a lot of space detailing what is just ahead of us because I need your help by attending the fun things, as well as the not so fun things, called Post business. I will be at all these events, and I would like to have you with me. Remember to bring the canned goods and baby supplies to the next meeting at Shadowbend Park.

I want to congratulate **Finance Officer Emery Heuermann**, for the impressive achievement of revamping the way we do financial business. As an offshoot of this, he was able to offer a completely revised budget for the 2015-2016 year. It was voted in with the amendment that the budget be reviewed after three months.

Post dues will soon be increased as a result of National requiring an additional \$5.00 per year per member. The Department is passing that increase to its Posts, which means its portion of your dues will increase from \$26.00 to \$31.00. Each Post must decide what change in its annual dues will apply; a matter for the Executive Committee. Further, the Department has given its Posts the choice of one of three dates when any change will take effect: (1) As of the November Renewal Notice; (2) As of the January Renewal Notice; or (3) As of a date set by the Post, no later than

January 13, 2016. Stay tuned for those decisions, which must be made by our November Membership Meeting. That should encourage you to remit your current dues ASAP or accept a higher rate. Further, now is a good time to consider changing to Paid Up For Life (PUFL). Not only are the yearly dues increasing, but the PUFL cost will also be increasing. By buying now, you will beat the large increase to the PUFL cost, and you will not have to worry the next time an increase in dues is promulgated. Neither will you be bothered by dues reminders and writing annual checks.

**Jim Bolin
Commander**

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
(September 17, 2015)

Commander Bolin opened the meeting in the usual manner. **The Commander** called on the **Sergeant-at-Arms** to cite any guests, and there were none. Next, the minutes of the August 20th meeting were read in silence and approved. The minutes of the August 17th meeting of the Executive Committee were approved also. The **Finance Officer, Emery Heuermann**, was called on for his report. He gave the finance report and presented the proposed budget for 2015-2016. In order to balance the budget he had to transfer a portion of the funds from the Building Fund. (The projection of expenditures exceeded the projection of unallocated income.) In the end, the budget was approved, subject to audit, and a review at the January Post Meeting.

First Vice Commander Pete Koch updated the members on the requirement for a Post dues



THE BUGLE

The Bugle is the monthly newsletter of American Legion Post 305; "The Woodlands Post"; Department of Texas. All Post and Auxiliary Unit members in good standing are entitled to a copy of 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.

increase but said there is no final word on the amount. He also noted that the paid membership is at 315, while the goal for 2015-2016 is 322. At last year's end, 41 members failed to pay their 2014-2015 dues. **Pete** also reported that Precinct 3 Constable Ryan Gable invited the Post to participate in his BBQ for County veterans on October 31st at the SCCC. Further, Anadarko Petroleum has invited the Post to take part in its program to celebrate all veterans on November 5th. More on this as it becomes available. **Judge Advocate Everett Ison** reported that when dues are increased, the up-front cost of becoming a PUFL will also increase. So, now is a good time to become a PUFL.

Under New Business: Dayton Denton, Committeeman-at-Large, reporting in from an undisclosed location, verified that there would be an open meeting on November 3rd to honor the 2015 Boys State and Girls State attendees. It will take place at the South County Community Center. Details are to be handled by **Dayton** and by **Rosalie Fryer** of the Auxiliary. Your attendance would be appreciated.

Service Officer Toby Carroll had nothing to report. **Historian Lacey Homan** had no report, and **Committeeman-at-Large Win Salter** was absent.

Under **For the Good of the Legion**, the October meeting will be held at Shadowbend Park, preceding the annual picnic. Also, the rummage sale is on the following two days at the Robinson Road Community Center.

There being no other business to come before the Post, the **Commander** closed the meeting in the prescribed manner.



HONOR FLIGHT SELECTEES **FOCUS ON WOMEN** **VETERANS**

VA Secretary R. A. McDonald spoke to more than 140 WWII veterans who are part of the first all-female Honor Flight. These woman vets visited Washington's memorials built to honor their service. One Flight arrived in D. C. on September 22, comprised of 70 female WWII veterans, plus 70 post-9/11 era female veterans. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs attended a short ceremony and offered his thanks at the Women in Military Service Memorial at Arlington National Ceremony.

MY HEALTHeVET, FYI

"My HealtheVet" is the VA's online personal health record, designed for veterans, active-duty service members, their dependents and caregivers. It helps veterans partner with their health-care team, and provides opportunities and tools so that vets can make informed decisions in the management of their health care. Specific features available to veterans are based on his or her account type. Users of MyHealtheVet who have a **Basic** account are able to view their self-entered information online. If a vet is a

VA patient, he or she can upgrade their account to **Advanced** or **Premium**. For more information about account types and what is viewable, visit:

[MyHealtheVetAccountTypes](#)

Among the newest features available to veterans with a Premium account is the inclusion of "VA Notes". Those are clinical notes that your health-care team records, made during your appointments or hospital stays. Also available are your immunization records, more detailed reports, and a list of your current medical issues. These features are additional to prescription refills, VA appointments, and secure messaging – all quite popular to veterans. [Source: Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.; MyHealtheVet, The Gateway to Veteran Health and Wellness]

NOW HEAR THIS! **NOW HEAR THIS!**

The damaging effect of exposure to high noise levels in military operations or during routine military training is insidious, and many veterans do not realize they have hearing loss until permanent damage has already occurred. VA audiologist Nancy Duran, of VA's Audiology and Speech Language Pathology Services, recognizes the importance of caring for veterans who experience difficulties with their hearing, balance, speech, and communication ability. Hearing loss and tinnitus (ringing in the ears) account for the two most prevalent, service-connected disabilities among veterans. VA audiologists provide comprehensive hearing health care services, including:
~ Disability audiology exams and medical opinions on the

relationship between military service and hearing loss, tinnitus and balance disorders.

~ Assessment, evaluation, treatment and management of hearing loss, tinnitus and balance disorders.

~ Fitting and programming hearing aids and other assistive listening devices, such as TV and telephone amplifiers and post-surgical rehab for cochlear and other auditory implants.

~ Hearing screening, noise-induced hearing loss preventive services and aural rehab services to optimize hearing.

The VA includes over 1,100 audiologists at 400 sites and more than 400 speech-language pathologists offering services at over 190 sites of care.

[Source: Veterans Health Administration, HEALTH News Features (September 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 MIRACLE OF ST. NAZAIRE (A WAR STORY)

This miracle is not a church-based tale of religious significance, enhanced by retelling over the ages. This miracle is

well documented and involved Staff Sergeant Alan Eugene Magee, an Eighth Air Force ball-turret gunner of the 303rd Bomb Group, one of ten crew members of a B-17G Flying Fortress (“Snap!Crackle!Pop!”).

On January 3, 1943, Magee’s bomber was one of 85 planes which carried out a daylight raid on the German submarine pens at St. Nazaire, France. It was Magee’s seventh mission. He was old – 24 years – and was able to squeeze his 5’-7” frame and his 155 pounds into the belly turret of the B-17. (The pilot, Captain Arthur Adams, was only 19) On the day of the raid, Magee left his parachute on the aft deck of the bomber, because of the cramped space of his “office”.

The formations of bombers formed up above their English bases and followed the lead plane to France. They soon encountered heavy flak and defending German fighters as they approached the port city. Snap!Crackle!Pop! was hit by anti-aircraft fire on a wing and one engine, then a German fighter shot off a section of the right wing. The doomed bomber started spiraling toward the ground, spinning at a high rate. The crew tried to abandon the crippled plane but only three crewmen got out. Two parachuted into the sea offshore – navigator Lieutenant Glen M. Herrington and tail gunner Staff Sergeant J. I. Gordon. Magee wounded, climbed from his turret and found his parachute ruined. He bailed out without a ‘chute and lost consciousness due to the altitude, falling over 20,000 feet to earth. He likely had reached terminal velocity (120 mph) when he crashed through the glass roof of the St. Nazaire railroad station and

became draped over a supporting steel girder, then dropped to the floor. Magee was critically injured but was alive! He was given medical attention, suffering 28 shrapnel wounds, a damaged lung and kidney; his right arm was almost severed; his nose and one eye were ripped open and his broken bones included his right leg and ankle. With German doctors’ care, Magee fully recovered. He was a POW until May 1945. He was awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart.

That raid on St. Nazaire was considered a failure by the Eighth Air Force. Seven bombers were destroyed and 47 were damaged that day. In all, 75 airmen died.

Magee, despite his wartime experience, earned his private pilot’s license and found a career in air freight and airline reservations. In September 1995, the townspeople of St. Nazaire hosted a banquet where Magee and the two other survivors of Snap!Crackle!Pop! were guests and a monument to the bomber’s seven crewmen was dedicated.

Magee retired to New Mexico in 1979 and died in 2003 at age 84 of complications of a stroke and kidney failure. His grave is in San Angelo, Texas.

Sperry Ball Turret With Access Door Opened



POST 305 AUXILIARY UNIT NEWS

President: Jenny Hamann



Happy Autumn!

It is beautiful outside this time of year. I have always loved the fall season. It was more dramatic when I lived in northern states where we had a plethora of colorful trees on rolling hills that created spectacular views as far as the eye could see. I remember drives to places like Oldenburg, Indiana, for the covered bridge festival and toward Canada along the North Shore of Lake Superior, with our expressions of oohs and ahs at every colorful turn of the road.

Here in Texas, we are blessed with little spots of color here and there that bring back those youthful memories. I enjoy drives to the Hill Country and long bicycle rides along wooded trails in the cool autumn weather.

We have a wonderful tradition in Post and Unit 305 – we hold our Annual Fall Picnic in lieu of the routine meeting in October each year. This year it falls on October 15th. It gives us a chance to enjoy the out-of-doors during a time of year that tends to have rather idyllic weather around here. It is also a time when we simply enjoy each other's company. Next, we have the Fall District 7 Convention which takes place on Saturday, October 17th.

Unit 305 is made up of so many wonderful ladies, and recently we welcomed a new Junior Member, Heidi Higginson, at the September meeting. Heidi went to Girl's State this summer and also entered this

year's Americanism Essay contest, winning at the State/District for her grade level. She and her parents attended our September meeting and are very supportive of our mission.

I hope to see all of you soon at our Annual Picnic. Have a great October!

Featured Lady of Service

I took a few months off from featuring a Lady of Service. Now I'd like to start back by presenting **Geraldine (Geri) Mulvihill**. Geri is my sister and our Unit Chaplain, in addition to serving as Chaplain for our 7th District. I know you may think I am practicing nepotism here, but among the members of our Unit, **Geri** really is one of the most active.

Like me, **Geri** was recruited by our mother, **Mary Lee Mulvihill**, while we were still living in Sacramento, California. Since moving to Texas over five years ago, **Geri** has become more and more involved in all of our Unit's activities and programs. She volunteers whenever we have a need and does everything with joy and dedication.

Geri also served a term as Vice-President. There are many great and small things **Geri** does to help our veterans and the other auxiliary members. She cooks, drives, visits the sick, sends out prayer requests and leads us in prayer. Helps with fundraisers, and



just pitches in on all the work we do. With Geri, we know we have someone who is willing to roll up her sleeves to get the work done, making it fun in the process. She really cares about the people and

community she serves. I am very proud of my big sister, **Geri Mulvihill**. She is a genuine Lady of Service!

Your Servant,
Jenny Hamann

REMEMBER OUR VETERANS

You're a 19 year old kid, You are critically wounded and dying in the jungle somewhere in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. It's November 11, 1967 at Landing Zone X-ray, Your unit is outnumbered 8 to 1, and the enemy fire is so intense from 100 yards away that your CO has ordered the Medevac helicopters to stop coming in. You're lying there listening to the enemy machine guns and you know you're not getting out. Your family is half way around the world, 12,000 miles away, and you will never see them again. As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day, Then, over the machine-gun noise, you faintly hear the sound of a helicopter. You look up to see a Huey coming in, but it doesn't seem real because there are no Medevac markings on it. Captain Ed Freeman is coming in for you. He's not Medevac, so it's not his job, but he heard the radio call and decided he's flying his Huey down into the machine-gun fire anyway. Even after the Medevacs were ordered not to come, He's coming anyway. And, he drops it in and sits there in machine-gun fire as they load three of you at a time on board. Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire to doctors and nurses and safety. And, he kept coming back – 13 more times! Until all the wounded were out. No one knew until the mission was over that the Captain had been hit four times in the legs and left arm! He took 29 of you and your buddies out that day, Some would not have made it without the Captain and his Huey.

Medal of Honor recipient Captain Ed Freeman, United States Air Force, died last Wednesday at the age of 70 in Boise, Idaho. May God bless and rest his soul!

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

DAY	DATE	EVENT	LOCALE
Wed.	Oct. 7	Afghanistan War Began (2001)	
Mon.	Oct. 12	Executive Committee Meeting	So. County Community Center @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Oct. 15	Membership Meetings (Oktoberfest)	Shadowbend Park, The Woodlands @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Oct. 16	Fall Rummage Sale – Set-Up Day	Robinson Road Community Ctr. @ 8:00 AM
Sat.	Oct. 17	Rummage Sale – Sale Day	
Sat.	Oct. 17	District 7 Fall Convention	Post 615; New Caney (East Montgomery County Improvement District Building)
Sat.	Oct. 24	Division 2 Training Session	Post 490; South Houston
Tues.	Oct. 27	Navy Day	Anchors Aweigh!
Sat.	Oct. 31	County Constable's Vet BBQ	So. County Community Center
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!

POST & AUXILIARY UNIT CONTACT INFORMATION (2015-2016)

POSITION	NAME	TEL. NO.	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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
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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