



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 “ THE WOODLANDS POST” THE BUGLE



FEBRUARY 2017

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 2

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

## POST COMMANDER VICTORIA GLOVER



### COMMANDER'S CORNER

Alas, February has come. January has come and gone. It was a successful month with the Chili Cook-off and Open House. I would like to congratulate our Chili Cook-off winners **Dayton Denton** and **Kathy Carroll**. Good job to all of the entries. They were all good in my book.

I would like to thank each and every one that volunteered for the Open House. It was a very productive event with both the Post and Auxiliary gaining new members. The turnout wasn't as big as the last time we had our Open House, but we did get several transfers, new members and even had some inactive members show up. Each and every one was invaluable in making this event a success.

I want to thank our **State Commander Walter Ivies**, **State Historian Susan Marty** and **District Commander Ed Jarvis** for attending; along with giving us some ideas and pointers. **Commander Ivies** even gave us some pointers in getting a Post home. We need to look at getting the financing for it to happen. And to be able to continue running it, once it happens. It would be a plus in gaining new members to be able to meet in the same room instead of being at the mercy of somebody else's schedule. This in my book is definitely a plus. If you would like to be on the committee spearheading this venture please contact us.

Getting new members means there is more talent out there that can help, but your talent is just as invaluable. Please step up and volunteer with committees. I know the Activities Chairman needs help; the Membership Committee could always use the help. We could also use your talent in the Executive Committee and becoming officers. There is training at American Legion Extension Institute and online at [www.txlegion.org](http://www.txlegion.org).

This month we have the honor to share most awesome story as we do every February. It is the Four Chaplains Memorial Service. (More on the following pages.)

The Post and Auxiliary are looking to do a combined activity later this year in going to Fredericksburg, TX. There is a sign-up sheet with the Unit. Also, we have the "Birdies For Charity" starting up. Get with **Jim Bolin** in regards to getting the entry form for donations. Activity ideas are always welcome.

Until next time, let us ever be reminded to never forget our fallen, POW/MIA's, veterans, active duty personnel and their families. Keep them and our first responders in our prayers!

**Victoria Glover  
Commander**

### WEATHER REPORT: CHILI WITH A CHANCE OF ONION

Per tradition, the Annual Chili Cook-Off Contest immediately followed the January meetings. Unlike recent years, both contenders presented a nice selection of culinary art. The Auxiliary members brought five entries and the Post members matched that. **Kim Biggerstaff** hedged her bet by entering her concoction on both opposing tables. (She is a dual member.)

After much sampling and judging by all present, then voting, the first place winners were (drum roll) **Dayton Denton** for the Post and **Kathy Carroll** for the Unit. Once again, **Dayton** embellished his

entry by showing up clad as a First American, Indian, that is. Congrats to **Kathy** and **Dayton!**



**OPEN HOUSE**  
**POST- MORTEM REPORT**

On Saturday, January 21, the Post and Auxiliary jointly held an Open House at the South County Community Center. The doors were opened at 9:00 AM and closed at 1:00 PM. Guests found the large room bordered by a series of table displays wherein the programs, projects and accomplishments were presented by a Post or Auxiliary member and the products and photos arrayed. Further, guests were treated to a continental brunch with a large selection of munchies.

To report that the affair was a rousing success (as compared to October 2014's Open House) would be stretching definitions a bit. The traffic was light but there were some upsides: Both the Post and the Unit gained some new members; six for the Post and two for the Auxiliary. The other bit of good news was the attendance by **Department Commander Walter Ivies**, **Department Historian Susan Marty** and **District Commander Ed Jarvis**. All three stayed for much of the period, and there was a rewarding exchange of information and ideas.

The participants put a lot of work into the preparation of displays and the set-up of the room. An "after-action" report is in development, for reference the next time.



Joan Sparks at the Americanism and Children & Youth Display



The VA&R Table of Carol Dreesen attracted State Commander Ivies, Post Commander Glover and Adjutant Jones



District 7 Commander Jarvis and Boys State Program Chair Denton Confer

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**  
**(JANUARY 20, 2017)**

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting, several guest spokespersons were allowed to make presentations. The membership of the Post (and an array of crock pots for the Annual Chili Cook-Off Contest) were forced out of the



**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.

main meeting room and into the larger of the small breakout rooms. The first guest speaker was **Diana Luiz**, who has had her book "Healing Your Life With Water" published. She advocates the benefits of water aerobics and just immersion, relaxing to lessen stress and to treat PTSD. **Ms. Luiz** closed her advocacy message by an a capella rendition of "Amazing Grace". The next guests were two, home-schooled teenage siblings who are seeking to become effective debaters. Their grandmother had escorted the two children to the meeting. The third guest was **Rob Eissler**, a former Post member, former State legislator, former Navy pilot, current lobbyist and Post rejoinder. His purpose was to seek the Post's support by letter endorsement of development of a veteran housing complex in Conroe. It would provide homes for low and fixed income families where County veterans would be given preference. The developer is Atlantic & Pacific Real Estate, LLC, and it holds a 14-acre plot on Gladstell Street, close to the VA's Conroe Outpatient Clinic. The County includes about 34,000 veterans and of those around 18,000 would qualify for the proposed housing.

The meeting was called to order and opened by the usual ritual by **Commander Victoria Glover**, assisted by **Chaplain Larry Reynolds** and **Sergeant-at-Arms Bruce Carter**. The first order of business was the draping of the charter in memoriam of Post member **Dewey O'Neal** who went to Final Muster in November. He had been a 14-year member of the Post.

Given assurance that a quorum was present by the Sergeant-

at-Arms, the next agenda item was the approval of the Minutes of two past meetings – the December 15<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting and the January 16<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting. Copies had been distributed, and both were moved for acceptance. It was done by voice vote. The **Commander** queried the **Sergeant-at-Arms** as to any guests present. He cited Legionnaire **Robert V. Jones** and his wife. **Jones** is transferring to Post 305 from the Dayton, Texas, Post. Also, present were the parents and son of Post member **Scott Hebert, Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks** and **Nicholas**, an Air Force JROTC cadet.

Next, **Finance Officer Emery Heuermann** was called on for the Financial Report, copies of which had been distributed. In summary, as of the end of December, the General Fund held \$9,235.22 and the Investment Fund \$31,477.98, for a total of liquid assets of \$40,713.20. Fixed assets were estimated to value \$4,074.67. By motion and vote, the report was accepted, subject to audit. The **Commander** then called on the acting **First Vice Commander Jim Bolin** for a membership report. **Bolin** stated that the Post was in fourth place among the 17 Posts of District 7 in terms of goal achievement. With 240 paid-up members and a goal of 322, we are at 74%. He offered the hope that the rate of dues payments would continue and not drop off as it did last year.

The **Commander** reported that Post member **David Lips** was back in his residence at The Forum of The Woodlands, returning from St. Luke's where the flu sent him. **Emery Heuermann** reported that Post member **Joe Hammond** was in

an Austin rehab hospital but not doing well. He hoped Joe's decline could be arrested by medical treatment.

**Sergeant-at-Arms Carter** had nothing to report. **Judge Advocate Everett Ison** was absent. **Historian Lacey Homan** and **Service Officer Toby Carroll** had no reports. **Committeeman At-Large Art Eipper** had no report, but **Committeeman Dayton Denton** reported on the Boys State Program. He stated that the Post had financial sponsorship commitments for 28 boys, yet to be interviewed and selected. He expressed he had a goal for 2017 of 50 boys.

Under "For the Good of the Legion", **Second Vice Commander Jim Bolin** cited the start of the "Birdies For Charity" fundraiser. The pledge forms had yet to arrive but would be available at the February meeting. He stressed the importance of playing the game of guessing the number of birdies which will be scored at the annual Shell Houston Open Golf Tournament this summer, because all monies pledged and paid will be returned to the Post's coffers in the fall. Continuing on fund raising matters, Jim cite the monies to be raised by the collection and recycling of aluminum cans and by the spring rummage sale in April. We lack enough quality merchandise in storage right now and had a poor "take" last year for that reason. "Quality Merchandise" means a combination of big-ticket items, nearly-new in usage, currently desirable goods and a respectable quantity of all three.

The **Commander** reminded all of the Department's Mid-winter Conference on January 26 through the 29<sup>th</sup>. She indicated

she cannot attend but needed names of those Post members who were going as delegates. She also cited the scheduled May 19 return of troops passing through Houston and the importance of greeting them at IAH. (More later.) Lastly, the **Commander** reminded everyone of the Open House on the following day, and her hope all who could would turn out and help make it a success. Doors will be open at 7:00 AM for set up of the room. The Open House will run from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM.

**Kim Biggerstaff, Past Commander**, rose to speak in support of the Legion's National Emergency Fund, which exists to assist Legionnaires and their families with financial support when circumstances, like flood or fire, displace them and destroy their homes. The assistance is to help pay for the extraordinary expense caused by disaster – housing, food, clothing, etc. A maximum gift of \$3,000 applies to any one family and each event. Posts and members are asked to make donations to the NEF. In closing, the matter of a letter in support of the veteran housing in Conroe as requested by **Representative Eissler** was affirmed by motion and vote. **Emery Heuermann** was tasked with drafting an appropriate letter for the Commander's review and signature.

There being no other business to come before the membership, the meeting was closed in the customary manner. With adjournment, Post members were joined by the Auxiliary to compete for chili cook honors.



### VETERANS ADVOCATE

#### FEDERAL HIRING FREEZE UPDATE

On January 23, 2017, President Trump initiated a 90-day federal hiring freeze until the Office of Management and Budget can develop a long-term plan to reduce the size of the federal government workforce through attrition. The executive memorandum does allow the head of any executive department or agency to exempt any position that is deemed necessary to meet national security or public safety responsibilities. Military service members are specifically exempt from the temporary freeze, but the Defense Department's 750,000 federal civilians are not; nor are the 350,000 employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Acting VA Secretary Robert Snyder said he would continue to hire medical staff and other front line personnel, and we fully expect Trump's VA nominee, Dr. David Shulkin, and DOD to do likewise. Long time federal civilian personnel experts have called the temporary freeze a prudent step that many new administrations exercise in order to assess what they have before moving forward.

#### THREE VETERANS TAPPED FOR SERVICE SECRETARIES

President Trump nominated businessman Philip Bilden this week to become the new

Secretary of the Navy. Bilden served from 1986 to 1996 in the Army Reserve as a military intelligence officer, including a stint at the Defense Intelligence Agency. He is the son of a career naval officer, and his mother also grew up in a Navy family. His eldest son graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2015, and his youngest is in the Class of 2018. Bilden now joins former Rep. Heather Wilson (R-NM), the new Air Force Secretary nominee, and Vincent Viola, who was picked for Army Secretary. Wilson graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1982 and served until 1989, when she left to join the National Security Council as its director for European defense policy and arms control. Viola graduated from West Point in 1977, and served in the 101st Airborne Division. Their Senate confirmation hearings have yet to be announced.

#### VA TO BEGIN FERTILITY COUNSELING AND TREATMENT

The VA is now authorized to provide fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technologies, including in vitro fertilization (IVF), to veterans with service-connected disabilities that resulted in the inability to procreate without the use of such treatments. Last week, VA announced that it will begin providing IVF treatments for eligible veterans and their spouses. Veterans with service-related infertility who wish to explore IVF options should schedule an appointment with their local VA health care facility for eligibility determinations, clinical evaluation and consultation. The law also authorizes VA to reimburse veterans for the cost of adoption, but VA has

not announced when it will begin adoption reimbursements.

### **PENTAGON CHANGES RIF EVALUATION PRIORITIES**

The Department of Defense announced this week a change in the way it would evaluate its civilians if there were to be a reduction in force (RIF). The procedural change was required by the 2016 defense budget and is not an indicator of an impending RIF. The change required DOD to make employee performance the top retention factor — it currently ranks fourth in importance elsewhere in government. However, in the reshuffling of evaluation factors, the Pentagon dropped veterans' preference to fourth in importance, where previously it was second. Veteran organizations oppose this downgraded ranking and some may make known their views to DoD Secretary James Mattis.

#### **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](http://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 SINKING OF THE USAT DORCHESTER IN 1943**

The aging steamship Dorchester, once a coastwise luxury liner, was “in mothballs”

when WWII needs caused it to be activated and leased to the Bare Boat to Warship Administration by its owner, Merchant & Miners Transportation Company. Once out of storage, the Dorchester was converted to a troop transport and cargo ship, with high-capacity accommodations for passengers and defensive armament --- one 4” gun aft, one 3” gun forward and two 20mm machine cannon on each side.

The USAT Dorchester was put into trans-Atlantic serviced, captained by Hans J. Danielson. On December 26, 1942, the Dorchester returned to New York Harbor from a two month's round trip to several ports of call in Greenland. Sailing in a five-ship convoy and protected by four USCG cutters and one USN destroyer, those crossings were without incident, except for a grounding in an ice-choked Greenland fjord while reversing course.

On January 22, 1943, the USAT Dorchester departed Pier 11, Staten Island, NY, in position 23 of a 46-ship convoy, escorted by heavily-armed USN destroyers and corvettes. The convoy was bound for St. Johns, Newfoundland, where ships were sorted into smaller convoys with common destinations and awaited escorts and acceptable weather.

The Dorchester was carrying 904 souls, 1,069 tons of general cargo and lumber and 60 sacks of mail and parcel post. The personnel on board included over 500 US Army replacements, a Merchant Marine crew of 130, a Naval Armed Guard detachment of 24, other USN and USCG personnel, 150 civilian construction contractor workers, and several Danish citizens. At

St. Johns, the Dorchester joined two freighters – the SS Lutz and the SS Biscaya -- and picked up its escort – three USCG cutters; Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche. The convoy departed for Greenland on January 29, 1943. Initially, the seas were rough for the little convoy. Ice and heavy seas tore away part of the Tampa's anti-submarine rocket platform and washed some life rafts overboard. Sea spray froze everything including men's faces. Midway, one of the cutters detected the presence of a submarine by sonar. Nerves were at the breaking point. A U-boat could easily come to periscope depth or be running on the surface virtually undetected by radar or sonar.

By February 3, the convoy was 140 miles from Greenland, and air cover would be available on the following morning. That night, Captain Danielson told the Army OIC, Captain Krecher, to have his troops sleep in clothes and wear their life jackets, but the order was ignored by many. The Naval Armed Guard discouraged Army personnel from being above decks unless on lookout duty. Below decks the men were closely packed. It was hot and sweaty and many slept in their underwear. The convoy was steering evasive courses, but not zigzagging, making about 10 knots, blacked out and under radio silence. The three ships were in line abreast with the Dorchester in the center. The weather had cleared; the seas smooth with a slight chop. The convoy Escort Commander received a report from another ship that submarines were in the vicinity, and he warned all ships of the convoy, advising all personnel to wear life jackets and parkas. It is possible that

all hands on the Dorchester did not hear this warning. At 12:55, there was an explosion just aft of amidships near the engine room and the refrigeration plant. The explosion was muffled due to its depth; there was little noise but considerable concussion. The ship's second officer was awoken by the blast, but he thought the ship had struck a piece of ice. The explosion killed many men in the vicinity. The engines stopped due to flooding, and the ship lost way and listed 25 degrees to starboard. Some bulkheads buckled, jamming doors, and all three generators stopped functioning. The lighting went out, and there was much confusion among the passengers below decks. Those without life jackets searched to find one. The captain signaled by fog horn that his ship had been torpedoed, It was not immediately clear that the ship was doomed, but all three cutters fired star shell flares, lighting up the scene and making them sitting ducks for another attack. The Dorchester was taking on water very rapidly, when the Captain ordered abandon ship. He tried to signal that by the horn but loss of steam pressure made it ineffective. Men tried to reach the upper decks and find their lifeboat stations, but torpedo blast shrapnel had holed through lifeboat No. 4, and No. 7 was demolished beyond use. It also damaged other davits denying those boats from use. Of the 14 lifeboats aboard, only No. 6 and No. 13 were successfully used in abandoning ship. Some port side boats were made unavailable due to the ship's list. No. 2 boat was lowered successfully, but was soon swamped by the excessive number of men trying to get into it. No. 4 boat was cap-

## Four Men of God

By Edgar Guest

The transport Dorchester set forth upon her dangerous mission north.

Grim winter rode the seas with her, and cold and gray the sky.

There were four men of God aboard to do the service of the Lord,

To share the life of fighting men and shrive them, must they die.

Four chaplains, Catholic and Jew and Protestants (by chance) were two:

Poling and Fox and Washington and Alexander Goode.

Four men of God—enough to say—who questions, which was which today?

Four men of God who shared the dream of worldwide Brotherhood.

They did not preach the narrow way; they lived with men from day to day;

They understood their smiles and tears, their every joy and care;

The human heart they understood; found in the worst a share of good,

And tried to do for God those deeds which men beseech in prayer.

The Dorchester's clean decks they trod; four gracious, humble men of God,

Who served both braid and dungaree as though they were the same;

Who never questioned post or place, religion, color, caste, or race

Of any who in earnest need of aid or comfort came.

Aye, there were times when faith alone called each to worship with his own,

When Rabbi, Priest, and Minister knelt down with one in grief,

And times when each would draw apart to comfort many a lonely heart

Or strengthen at the battle's eve some faltering boy's belief;

But one must ask the question: Who was Catholic, Protestant, or Jew?

Unless the holy vessels on the altar had been laid,

For in the ship's life—weal and woe—there was no outer sign to show

That form of worship, rite, or prayer the slightest difference made.

War takes no heed of wrong or right. The only god it has is might.

Its deadly missiles screaming fly, not caring who shall live or die;

Not asking: Is the mission fair? Not wondering: does the good Lord care?

Or will their fearful force be spent where sleep the old and innocent?

Below the waters, cold and green, within a German submarine

A youthful, listening sailor stirred. The sound of moving ship he'd heard.

He rose and to his captain spoke. A periscope the surface broke!

The captain turned it, left and right, and peering through the slotted sight,

He waited for the ship to pass across his little field of glass.

The Dorchester came into view. To battle stations went the crew.

"Fire one" was ordered. Then: "Fire two!" From tubes, shot out with flaming breath,

Went two shrewd instruments of death. Controlled by many a wise device,

They sped upon a course, precise, to sink their targets—ship and men!

"Good," said the captain. "Down, again!"

Upon the decks of ships are chests in which are life belts stored

Against the time when men must trust themselves unto the sea.

At such a chest each Chaplain stayed to calm and hearten boys afraid

And pass them belts to hold them up till rescued they could be.

But some too frightened were to leap; they would not risk the raging deep,

Convinced that death awaited all who ventured overside.

(Continued)

sized as soon as it hit the water. No. 9 boat was left hanging from one davit, and No. 8 was not lowered due to lack of crew. Several life rafts were cut loose by crewmen but left on deck to float off as the Dorchester settled and sank. Some were dropped overboard only to injure people in boats below and men in the water.

Only the sonar-man on the Comanche heard the explosion but none of the escorts' other crewmen. Escanaba stayed close, listened for the sub and proceeded to rescue survivors from the icy water. The Tampa, fearing another attack, patrolled the perimeter, seeking the U-boat by sonar. If the sub was detected, the cutters, which carried depth charges, could not use them due to the men in the water. The Lutz was swinging back to assist the cutters in rescuing survivors, but collided with the Biscaya, and the Lutz was severely damaged on its starboard side. The Tampa then was directed to proceed, escorting the Lutz and the Biscaya onward to Greenland.

[It was later determined that the U-223, the attacker, sat on the bottom, listening fearfully to the sonar pings.]

Life was short for those in the water due to exposure, a few minutes or so, depending on clothing and shoes. There was no panic during abandon-ship operations, and some on deck made no move to leave the ship. Lifeboat No. 6, with 51 survivors and five hanging to its sides, was located by the Escanaba and all were removed. Lifeboat No. 13 was found and its survivors taken in by the Comanche. All other survivors and the dead were on liferafts, still on the ship or in

"Trust God!" they heard the Chaplain say. "Trust God and go! 'Tis death to stay!"

And thus was many a youngster saved who otherwise had died.

No talk of Catholic or Jew! No question: "Protestant are you?"

But this: "Your belt! God keep you safe!" No sign of inner fear.

Four humble men of God, just then in peril with their fellow-men,

Who dared to keep the faith they'd taught when death was drawing near.

Then when the last life belt was gone and still were others who had none,

"Here," said each Chaplain of the sea, "take mine! Your life 'twill spare!"

And with this last brave service done, they stood together—four as one!—

And linked their arms and bowed their heads and spoke a final prayer.

From bow to stern the vessel shook. Those in the sea who turned to look

Just as the ship went down beheld four men of God, who stood,

Arms linked together and at prayer! Four men of God undaunted there,

Who dared to die for their belief in ties of brotherhood.

Oh, there are times when hate and strife stain all that's best in human life,

When bitterness so fills men's hearts that hatred seems their trade,

But 'gainst war's horror, filth, and crime will shine for all remaining time

The glory of united faiths which four brave men displayed!

We are not told the prayer they chose, since death so swiftly came.

I fancy, though, 'tis thus it goes: "Our Father, Who in Heaven art,  
Hallowed be Thy name!"

the water. Sailors of the Naval Armed Guard were in a liferaft for over six hours and all but one survived. The ship sank in 25 minutes, after finally listing 85 degrees.

As the two cutters motored slowly over the scene, bow lookouts searched for survivors. Those with lifejackets were greatly helped by the single-cell flashlights with red lenses affixed to the jackets. But, many were so cold and weak they had to be brought in by guardsmen in rubber suits who swam to each man. Others were thrown life preservers on ropes to haul them in. Cargo nets on the sides of the cutters aided those still able to climb. The Escanaba rescued 132 and the Comanche, 97. All survivors and 13 bodies were brought to Narsarsuak, Greenland.

It was the survivors, once safe, who remarked about the four Army chaplains who assisted in

the distribution of lifejackets until there were no more. How their calm attitude comforted many. How the Catholic chaplain gave his own jacket to a man lacking one. How the Jewish chaplain gave his gloves to another with none. How all four sacrificed their lives that others might live. How several survivors witnessed this heroism as the water rose and the chaplains made no attempt to leave the dying ship. The collective testimony of these survivors became repeated and made public. That spawned the "Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony" and many material memorials to the four chaplains.

Of the 904 persons aboard, 229 survived:

- 4 US Army officers
- 131 US Army enlisted men
- 28 US Merchant Marine crew
- 44 civilian workers
- 3 Danish citizens
- 12 US Navy personnel
- 7 US Coast Guard personnel

# AMERICAN LEGION UNIT 305 NEWS



**President Jenny Hamann**

*[Written this month by **Dayna Salter**, Unit Treasurer]*

ALA Unit 305 would like to thank the members of Unit and Post 305 for a very successful Open House. In particular, **Thars Higginson** and **Rosalie Fryer** who gathered and served an excellent brunch spread for our guests. Food donations were facilitated by Post member **Art Eipper**. Thanks to **Annie Smith** for her cupcakes. Various tables were staffed by **Joan Sparks, Dayna Salter, Steve McKinsey, Marcela and Carol Dreeson, Geri Mulvihill, Toby Carroll, Larry Reynolds, Dayton Denton, Lacey Holman, Joan Charest, Win Salter, Emery Heuermann, Kathy Carroll** and **Jenny Hamann**. We are also sending a special technical support thanks to **Clay and Cleo Hamann. Jerry and Mary Lee Mulvihill** welcomed the guests at the sign-in table.

The Open House was a testament to everyone's cooperation and hard work. While we would have liked to have had higher numbers in attendance, 27 visitors filled out registration cards. Some of those were couples; others failed to register. We gained two paid and two interested new members for the Unit and four transfers-in and two new

Legionnaires for the Post. We will be busy ensuring those new members feel welcome and are brought into our activities.



**Joan Charest at her Historian Table**

The February membership meeting will include the Four Chaplains' ceremony which is always a feature of our February meetings. The Four Chaplains ceremony honors four chaplains from different faiths, who lost their lives in the sinking of the Army troop transport *Dorchester* by a German U-boat in February, 1943. The chaplains had spread among the crew as the ship sank and offered comfort to the frightened and aid to the wounded. They sacrificed their own lives by offering their life jackets to four soldiers. We honor their multi-faith teamwork and their extraordinary acts of heroism.



Courtesy of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School

As Spring approaches, several important activities and projects are beginning. The Girls State Committee of **Geri Mulvihill**,

**Thars Higginson, Rosalie Fryer and Joan Sparks** has already begun the process of picking high school juniors for this June's Girls State, and our plans are to have over 20 girls this year attend.

**President Hamann** requests that all members tally up their hours for the annual report due at the end of March. Please think of all the work you do for veterans, their families and the community. Be sure to count those hours you spent on Pot Luck meals and the Open House as well.

**Joan Sparks** is chair of the Children and Youth Committee again this year, and we are working with local schools for the Department Americanism Essay Contest. She also oversees our participation in the program "Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2", which honors those children.

And finally, we'd like to remind everyone that the Unit Scholarship is available for the offspring of Unit members. Applicants can be male or female high school seniors who have been accepted into a two or four-year college or vocational school. Applications are available from **Joan Sparks** or **Dayna Salter**. The completed application is due by July 31, 2017.

We hope to see you at the February meeting. The potluck will be sandwiches and salads. **Thars Higginson** will be calling members to coordinate the dishes presented.

**Dayna Salter**  
Treasurer



## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Mon.	Feb. 13	Executive Committees Meet	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 14	Valentine's Day	Candy and Flowers
Thur.	Feb. 16	Membership Meetings (Four Chaps)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Mon.	Feb. 20	Presidents Day	
Wed.	March 1	American Legion Birthday (1919)	
Mon.	March 13	Executive Committees Meet	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	March 16	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	March 17	St. Patrick's Day	
Sun.	March 19	Iraq War Began (2003)	
Sat.	April 1	April Fools' Day	
Sun.	April 16	Easter Sunday	
Mon.	April 17	Executive Committees Meet	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	April 20	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	April 21	Rummage Sale Set-up Day	Robinson Road Community Center
Sat.	April 22	Spring Rummage Sale	Robinson Road Community Center
Sat.	April 22	District 7 Spring Convention	Post 84; Madisonville

## POST & AUXILIARY UNIT CONTACT INFORMATION (2016-2017)

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEL. NO.</u>	<u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u>
<b>POST 305</b>			
COMMANDER	Victoria Glover	(832) 813-9415	ALPostcmdrvickie@gmail.com
FIRST VICE CMDR.	(vacant)		
SECOND VICE CMDR.	Jim Bolin	(281) 251-2352	jpb20006@sbcglobal.net
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	Bruce Carter	(281) 844-0836	bruce4482@att.net
ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS	Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714	carl12024@yahoo.com
CHAPLAIN	Larry Reynolds	(254) 482-0003	lbr725@gmail.com
ASS'T CHAPLAIN	(vacant)		
JUDGE ADVOCATE	Everett Ison	(281) 298-9524	everett.ison@sprint.com
HISTORIAN	Lacey Homan	(832) 704-2732	lkhoman44@gmail.com
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:</b>			
POSITION ONE	Dayton Denton	(832) 928-6054	whselfstorage1@yahoo.com
POSITION TWO	Art Eipper	(832) 567-5806	artstarr99@yahoo.com
<b>AUXILIARY UNIT 305</b>			
PRESIDENT	Jenny Hamann	(281) 907-3430	ala305pres@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Kathy Carroll	(281) 323-4985	kcarroll47@sbcglobal.net
SECRETARY (Act'g)	Thars Higginson	(713) 851-9337	tharshigginson@comcast.net
TREASURER	Dayna Salter	(281) 229-1365	dayna.salter@ymail.com
HISTORIAN	Joan Charest	(281) 363-9710	rrge26@aol.com
CHAPLAIN	Geri Mulvihill	(832) 620-6265	gerimulvihill@outlook.com
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Rosalie Fryer	(936) 520-8895	rcfryer@consolidated.net
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Annie Smith	(281) 757-3967	carl12024@yahoo.com
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:</b>			
POSITION ONE	Nancy Woloszyn	(619) 985-0486	above4000feet@aol.com
POSITION TWO	Veronica Maiolo	(832) 228-4403	sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net
POSITION THREE	(vacant)		