



THE BUGLE

OCTOBER 2017

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 10



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 OF THE WOODLANDS

POST COMMANDER
VICTORIA GLOVER



September blew on through into October.

It has been a busy September for most everyone with Hurricane Harvey's landfall and flooding. Folks cleaning up and busy work schedules.

We were not very active Post wise in September other than trying to recover. There were Posts that sustained major damage from the storm along with multiple communities. Seeing folks come from all over the nation and help complete strangers is an awe-inspiring sight. Veterans, first responders and active duty and reserve military working together to help with cleanup and rebuilding.

Donations poured in from all over the country to Houston, to Rockport and to all affected areas. We had several calls regarding donation locations. Plus, we had monetary donations offered to the Post and veterans. There were several of our members that have been affected as well, be it high water in the house or roof damage. We are here to help.

HURRICANE HARVEY FLOOD EDITION

Please let us know what you need.

We do have the October Picnic coming up on Oct. 19th at 7:00 PM at Shadow Bend Park. Also, we have a District 7 Convention that weekend, being held at Post 134, Crockett, TX, which I will be attending. Hope to see everyone at the October Picnic. Have a wonderful month of October!

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**

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (September 21, 2017)

Commander Victoria Glover called the meeting to order and conducted the prescribed ritual, aided by **Chaplain Bill Houghton** and **Sergeant-at-Arms Bruce Carter**. The first order of business was the review and approval of the minutes of near past meetings; to wit: Post Membership meeting of August 17th; Finance Committee meeting of September 15th; and Executive Committee meeting of September 18th. Each was voted to be accepted in turn.

Commander Glover asked if there were any guests present, and the **Sergeant-at-Arms**

cited **George Viravec**. He introduced himself and stated he had served in the USAF with two tours of duty in Vietnam as the equivalent of an MP. He is a candidate for Post membership.

Finance Officer Emery Heuermann was called on to give his report. The General Fund, at the close of July, was at \$8,832.78; and the Investment Fund totalled \$33,102.25; for a Total Assets (Liquid) of \$41,935.03. **Emery** stated he also had the 2017-2018 budget to present later.

First Vice Commander Jim Bolin was next. He reported that paid membership numbered 86 toward a goal of 322, but that omitted any on-line payments which had yet to be reported by the Department. Notice of dues payments made on-line are not readily conveyed to Posts, unlike dues paid by check directly to **Adjutant Pickens Jones**.

The **Adjutant** and the **Chaplain** had no report. **Judge Advocate Everett Ison** reported next, and he distributed the four-page summary Audit Report (Financial) covering the year ending June 30th. He then presented it, citing its high points. Among the recommendations were the need to re-establish files on each member to include proof of qualifications to belong to the American Legion and such other personal data and information which would permit the officers

to better know the members. (Legion history, past officerships held, family situation, special skills and qualifications, etc).

The **Judge Advocate** went on about the Standing Rules which were recently adopted pending clarification of one matter: the timing of completion of the annual audit. He explained how that phrase was revised.

Historian Win Salter had nothing to report. **Service Officer Toby Carroll** told of encountering three veterans who were assisting homeowners who had flooded homes. One, who had been certified at 100% disability by the VA, was reduced recently to 70%, with reduction in pension. **Toby** will be attending the Service Officer training session in Austin and will confer with others on the prevalence of such VA action.

Next, the **Finance Officer** was called on to present the budget for the current year. Copies of the proposed budget were distributed, and it had been reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee. **Emery** pointed out several line items which deserved attention and the bottom line, where an imbalance was shown between income projections and estimated expenses. The budget includes interest drawdown from the Investment Fund above \$31,000, which lessened the imbalance. By motion and vote the budget as presented was adopted.

Continuing, **Emery** reported on action endorsed by the Executive Committee to sell the current fund (FASIX) and buy a more productive Fidelity fund for the original \$30,000 and to add any earnings to the General Fund, thus allowing greater aid to veterans and offsetting the

2016 and 2017 shortfall and absent Rummage Sale income.

He has met with the broker and has selected the replacement fund, which holds 70% equities and 30% bonds. By motion and vote the described action was adopted.

First Vice Commander Bolin spoke of the tradition of the Post buying \$40 worth of chances for a drawing at the 7th District Convention in Crockett, indicating he would continue the practice. **Jim** also indicated that the Top Golf driving range was still trying to interest the Post in participating in a fundraiser, however the scale of their typical contest is way above anything the Post could handle. He surmised it might be more appropriate at the District level.

Commander Glover recognized that the Rockport Post facilities were badly damaged by Hurricane Harvey. She also reported that she is receiving many offers of help from far and wide. But, the officers have virtually no knowledge of how the 300+ members fared. The Post is aware that three officers had their homes and property severely damaged by flood water – **Dayton Denton, Art Eipper** and **Win Salter**.

Emery Heuermann rose to state that with so many Post members giving aid and comfort to the flood victims, those helpers should report on their good deeds for reflection in the annual Consolidated Post Report.

Judge Advocate Everett Ison (and the Panther Creek scion) rose to say that he personally was reserving two, trailer-spaces for the Post and the Auxiliary to have booths at The Woodlands Annual Flea Market



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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REGULAR FEATURES:	Page
Commander's Corner -----	1
Meeting Highlights -----	1
Veteran's Advocate -----	3
Featured Article-----	4
Auxiliary Unit News -----	7
Coming Events Calendar----	8
Officer Contact Info -----	8

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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.

& Garage Sale on October 28th. This is an effort to offset the Rummage Sale cancellation due to occupation of the venue by hurricane relief workers. **Jim Bolin** said he would offer his truck and a trailer to collect and deliver the Post sale items. The need is to be onsite as of 5:00 AM.

Emery Heuermann offered to match any donation made to the Post up to \$200.

There being no further business to bring before the membership, the **Commander** closed the meeting in the customary manner. The attendees were joined by the Auxiliary to enjoy a variety of pizzas.



VETERANS ADVOCATE

CHANGES TO TRICARE FOR 2018

Changes are coming to your TRICARE benefit beginning January 1st, 2018. These changes will give you more benefit choices, will improve your access to care and will simplify cost shares. The best way you can prepare is to update your information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, sign up for TRICARE benefit updates, and visit the TRICARE changes page at TRICARE.mil/changes. Here's what you need to know:

~Currently, there are three TRICARE regions in the U.S. to

include TRICARE North, South and West. The TRICARE North and South regions will combine to form TRICARE East, while TRICARE West will remain mostly unchanged. Two new contractors, Humana Military and Health Net Federal Services, will administer these regions. This change will allow better coordination between the military hospitals and clinics and the civilian health care providers in each region.

~A new program, TRICARE Select will replace TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. This change applies to both stateside and overseas. Stateside, TRICARE Select will be a self-managed, preferred provider network option. You don't need a primary care manager so you can visit any TRICARE-authorized provider for services covered by TRICARE without a referral. Overseas, TRICARE Overseas Select will be a preferred provider organization-styled plan that provides access to both network and non-network TRICARE authorized providers for medically necessary TRICARE covered services. TRICARE Select adopts a number of improvements, including additional preventive care services previously only offered to TRICARE Prime beneficiaries.

~All current TRICARE beneficiaries will be automatically enrolled into plans on January 1st, 2018, as long as you are eligible. TRICARE Prime enrollees will remain in TRICARE Prime. TRICARE Standard and Extra beneficiaries will automatically be enrolled in TRICARE Select.

~During 2018, you can choose to enroll in or change coverage plans. Enrollment will move to a

calendar year open enrollment period beginning in the fall of 2018, during which active enrollment will be required for coverage for the following year. The open enrollment period will begin on the Monday of the second full week in November and run through the Monday of the second full week in December of each calendar year.

Remember, this is your benefit – take command! And stay informed with the latest information. In the coming months, more information will be available at www.TRICARE.mil/changes. To stay informed, sign up for email alerts at www.TRICARE.mil/emailalerts. You can also get alerts by signing up for eCorrespondence in milConnect at www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect. By staying informed, you'll be ready for a smooth transition with TRICARE. [Source: <http://www.tricare.mil/podcast> September 1, 2017 ++]

UPDATE ON VETERANS' BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY

Do you know all of the VA benefits that you may eligible for are based on your service connected disability rating, receipt of a non-service connected benefit, or special circumstance? VA wants to make sure everyone is aware of *all* of their benefits! To help you find them VA has created charts to show you what benefits you may be eligible for based on your current situation. To discover benefits that you may be eligible to receive use: https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_sc.asp Service Connected Matrix if you have a service connected disability rating from 0-100%? Or use: https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_sc.asp Non

Service Connected Matrix if you are getting VA pension or Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits? Or use:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivativecircumstance.asp>

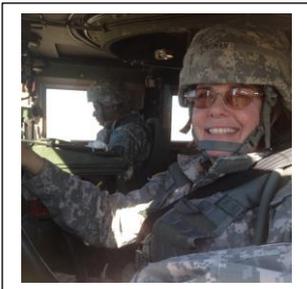
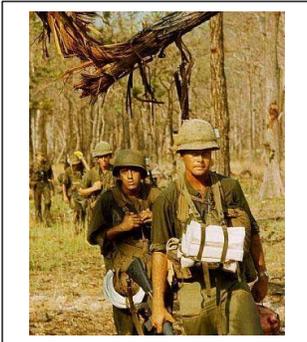
Circumstances Matrix to see if any of the listed circumstances apply to you.

[Source: Veterans Benefits Administration | September 13, 2017 ++]

A SOLDIER'S LAMENT

I left home at 18. I learned to kill another human being before I even learned to do my taxes. I learned how to care about someone else's life, more than my own. I have friends in college and I have friends in Afghanistan. My friends in college go home for summer; my friends in Afghanistan haven't come back. I wrote my own will at 19. I don't get enough sleep most nights. I don't get paid much. I don't know the next time I will see my family. I don't know when I may go home. I don't know much really. But, I do know one thing.....

I have 160,000 brothers out there, and they make it all worth it!



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Post Service Officer Toby Carroll:

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e-mail: toby.carroll@sbcglobal.net

VA Houston Regional Office:

(713) 383-7842

VA Conroe Outpatient Clinic:

(936) 522-4024

Texas Veterans Commission

Hot Line: 1(800) 252-VETS

County Veteran Service Centers:

Montgomery County -

Conroe: (936) 539-7842

Harris County -

Houston: (281) 876-6600

Military Veteran Peer Network:

Conroe: (936) 521-6132

STATE LEGISLATORS:

Dist. 3: Cecil Bell Jr. -

Magnolia: (281) 259-3700

Dist. 15: Mark Keough -

The Woodlands: (281) 419-1090

Dist. 16: Will Metcalf -

Conroe: (936) 539-0068

Dist. 126: Kevin Roberts -

Houston: (281) 444-1814

Dist. 150: Valoree Swanson -

Spring: (281) 257- 4222

HARVEY THE HURRICANE FLOODS THE POST'S NEIGHBORHOODS

If you recall Louis Bromfield's novel "The Rains Came" or the movie made of it, that was the experience of many parts of the Houston Metro Area on August 27th. Hurricane Harvey dumped record torrents of rainwater on Montgomery and Harris counties and many other Texas locations from the Mexican border to that of Louisiana. The result: flooding of homes, businesses, stores, schools, libraries, cars, everything! The higher elevations escaped the floods wrath, but many residents, who had never been flooded before, saw that toxic soup creep under doors and gradually swallow anything at or near floor level, and some saw

their entire ground floor awash in that blackish yellow-green water.

The impact on residents was almost the same whether the in-home depth experienced was just four inches or four feet. In all such cases, the drywall or wallboard got soaked, requiring removal to a height of two feet above the high-water mark, or usually four feet from the floor, to facilitate its replacement. Those furnishings, rugs, and contents of lower drawers, closets, bookcases, pantries, appliances, pianos, everything ended up as a huge pile on the front lawn, only to be soon followed by the drywall, cabinets, wood flooring, doors and trim. If you wanted, the better pieces might be restored professionally, but many not worth the cost ended up on the mountain out front, and some materials, like particleboard, just slumped in place adding those contents to the mix.



It came easy to ask; "Why me, Lord?", but, when all your neighbors were trying to survive with half of their lifestyle sitting wrecked on their lawns, you realized you really had little to complain about. Some had a FEMA-based flood insurance policy; others were "self-insured". But, the flood waters did not discriminate, and such risk management did not turn the flood.

Those homes impacted will present the owners with the question; "What do I do now?",

as they view the bones of their ground floor and the gaps which were once dishwashers, ranges, sinks, cabinetry and refrigerators. Then, there is the hit on the savings accounts and investments. The home you purchased a few years ago, with or without a mortgage, just lost half of its value! Perhaps you will opt to rebuild; restore the ground floor to its original or better shape. That's a six months' project at least, then replace the dining room set, the living room furnishings, the piano, the bedroom set – The curse of “the master on main”.



But, there are those who will say, “Everything happens for the best!”. Can that be? Is there a silver lining to Harvey? Did Harvey wreck so many lives without creating a chance to start anew, be it in the same location or a new one? Harvey was a downsizer for many; forcing flood victims to give up libraries of books, albums of family photos, files of important documents, those three years of income tax returns and more. In the words of Scarlett O'Hara; “As God is my witness, as God is my witness, they're not going to lick me! I'm going to live through this! ~~~Tomorrow I'll think of some way – after all, tomorrow is another day!”

THE ORIGINAL DRONE AIRCRAFT

The term “drone”, as it applies to a remotely piloted aircraft, has become common place, and their uses include the military

and civilian applications, with new uses reported almost weekly. But, the concept of a drone had its beginning during WWII, where the Eighth Air Force made use of worn-out B-17's as flying bombs over France. However, the original drone was deployed to the Pacific by the U.S.Navy, an aircraft developed from scratch.

Naval officer Delmar Fahmey was among the first visionaries to realize that remotely piloted aircraft could be used to deliver ordnance without putting airmen at risk. Fahmey was instrumental in creating three Special Task Air Groups (STAG's) to deploy drones in the Pacific Theatre.

The program, started in 1942, used cheap-to-make and easy-to-fly twin-engine drones, designated TDR-1's. These drones were a low-priority product, built by Interstate Aircraft out of pressed wood (created by piano-maker Wurlitzer) over tubular metal frames (erected by bike-maker Schwinn). Each one had a removable cockpit, so it could be ferried by a human pilot. But, it was designed to be flown via radio-control by a pilot in a TBM Avenger torpedo bomber accompanying the drone.

The secret of the TDR's was a new form of top-secret technology—an RCA television. A camera mounted in the drone's nose transmitted images back to a 5-inch screen mounted in the rear cockpit of the Avenger. Although the green, high-contrast display was crude, it was good enough for spotting ships on the horizon, which made it valuable for naval war action.

The drone program faced resistance from Navy critics, and

STAG One was not shipped to the Solomon Islands until June 1944. On July 30th, four TDR-1's flew a demonstration mission against a grounded Japanese freighter on Guadalcanal. Film of the test moved Navy brass at Pearl Harbor to grant permission to mount combat operations.

On September 27, 1944, four drones, each armed with 2,000 pound bombs, flew 55 miles to Bougainville to attack an anti-aircraft battery the Japanese had set up on a beached merchant ship. Three of the four reached the target, and two of those placed their bomb on target. Combat operations with drones continued. With the range of attacks extended to 160 miles, STAG One attacked gun installations, bridges, caves, a cargo ship and a lighthouse. The standard technique was to fly the TDR-1 directly into the target, but on occasion the drone dropped bombs remotely.

According to a Navy post-mortem; “The drone is capable of precision attack given a target of sufficient size and sufficient definition as to be visible in the television screen.” Despite modest success, and no loss of American lives, by the end of October 1944, the TDR-1's were grounded, the victims of military politics, a “not-invented-here” syndrome and general skepticism about the technology. The STAG units were disbanded and the drones discarded. Today, the last remaining TDR-1 hangs in the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida. With experimental drones taking off and landing on aircraft carrier decks today, it won't be long before piloted bombers become as obsolete as the first combat drone. [Excerpted from Smithsonian's “Air & Space” magazine; November 2017]



JOINT HOMECOMING
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN HINCE
ALA PRESIDENT DONNA DILLARD
SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER JUAN TORRES

Saturday, November 18th 6 p.m.

Post 159

101 Waco St., Bryan, TX 77803

Wine & Beer, BBQ dinner and DJ \$25/per person



WHO we are
WHAT we do
WHY we matter

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS

President Kathy Carroll



Autumn is here even if our temperatures are still like summer. The Fall is a busy time for our Unit. Instead of our regular meeting at the Community Center this month, we will have our annual picnic with the Post at Shadowbend Park in The Woodlands on October 19, 2017. The Post will grill hot dogs and hamburgers and the Unit will bring the sides and desserts. Watch for a sign up email for food so that we will have a good variety of things to eat.

In case you haven't heard, the Post annual rummage sale scheduled for October 20-21, 2017, has been cancelled. The Robinson Road Community Center has been designated as a Harvey Relief Assistance Center so all activities scheduled for October have been cancelled.

The Unit will still be participating in 2 craft fairs in October. We will have tables at the Woodlands Flea Market on October 28th and the craft fair at St. Simon and Jude on October 29th. We will have **Joan Sparks'** vintage Avon jewelry to sell and we are looking for any other items that you think will be good sellers. Pumpkin and banana breads have been suggested. We also need people to man the tables. The more help we have, the easier it will be for everyone. If you have items for the craft fairs and are unable to be there, please call any of the officers and we will arrange to get them from you. We hope to do

good at the fairs since our General Operating Fund is a little low and we would like to avoid having a fundraiser that involves taking orders and delivering items.

Our Care Packages to Iraq and Afghanistan project headed up by **Gene Wilson-Watz** is doing great. We are sending two packages every month so **Gene** needs things every month. Right now she has plenty of toiletries, but she needs snack items, magazines, small games, boot socks and anything else you think would be appreciated. Remember also, that some of these service members are women. Again, if you have items to donate but can't get them to **Gene**, call one of us and we will arrange to pick them up.

By now everyone should have received a membership renewal notice. Please send it to me as soon as possible with your check. We want our Unit to reach our goal and be at 100% by the end of the year. Also if you send it in right away there is less chance that you will misplace your renewal notice and forget to renew. Don't forget, your dues help the Unit to continue to support so many important veteran programs. Also we still have copies of the 2017-2018 Membership Book. If you have not gotten your copy, **Dayna** brings them to every meeting or you can contact her and make arrangements to pick one up.

I have two important dates in November that I would like everyone to put on her calendar. First we will be distributing Poppies on Saturday, November 4th at three Ace Hardware stores. The amount of time that we can be at each store is only limited by the number of volunteers we have. **Rosalie Fryer** will have a sign-up sheet at the picnic or you can contact her and let her know when you are available to help.

Second, we will be hosting our Girls State Recognition Event on

Wednesday, November 8th at the Community Center. Our Unit sent 26 girls to Girls State in June 2017. It is important that we acknowledge their accomplishments and it is an opportunity for our Unit to recruit these girls and/or their mothers to join the Auxiliary. **Donna Dillard**, Department of Texas President, and **Sherry Harper**, Department Chairman of Girls State, are both planning to attend. I would really like to see a big turnout of our members for this event.

In September, PBS aired the new Ken Burns 10-part series on The Vietnam War. If you did not have a chance to watch the series, you missed an excellent opportunity to learn about the history of Vietnam and how the United States got involved in this war. I am sure that the series will be repeated so check your TV guide. Much of the video footage that he uses comes from North Vietnam so it is something that most people have never seen.

October 12th marks the 16th anniversary of the day our first U.S. ground forces landed in Afghanistan and Pakistan as Operation Enduring Freedom. At that time I don't think anyone expected that our military would be in harm's way for so many years. It is not a day to celebrate, but I think it should remind us of how lucky we are as a nation to know that we have people who think we and our way of life are worth preserving. In this time of an all-volunteer military, we should always be grateful to our men and women in uniform who stand up for all of us and protect our freedoms.

Hope to see as many of you as possible at the picnic at Shadowbend. It is always a good time. Until then, God bless our Veterans, our men and women in uniform and God bless the United States of America.

Kathy Carroll,
President

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Sat.	Oct. 7	Afghan War Began (2001)		
Fri.	Oct. 13	U. S. Navy Established (1775)		
Mon.	Oct. 16	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Center @ 7:00 PM	
Thur.	Oct. 19	Annual Oktoberfest Picnic	Shadowbend Park, (Woodlands) @ 7:00 PM	
Fri.	Oct. 27	Navy Day		
Sat.	Oct. 28	The Woodlands Flea Market	Post & Auxiliary Will Participate @ 5:00 AM	
Tues.	Oct. 31	Halloween	Trick or treat!	
Tues.	Nov. 7	Election Day		
Fri.	Nov. 10	Marine Corps Established (1775)		
Sat.	Nov. 11	Veterans Day	Remember Our Veterans, POW's & MIA's	
Mon.	Nov. 13	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Center @ 7:00 PM	
Thur.	Nov. 16	Membership Meetings (Turkey)	South County Community Center @ 7:00 PM	
Thur.	Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day		
Thur.	Dec. 7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	1941 ~ "A day which will live in infamy!"	
Mon.	Dec. 18	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Center @ 7:00 PM	
Thur.	Dec. 21	Membership Meetings	South County Community Center @ 7:00 PM	
Sun.	Dec. 24	"Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring"		
Mon.	Dec. 25	Christmas Day		

POST & AUXILIARY UNIT CONTACT INFORMATION (2017-2018)

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEL. NO.</u>	<u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u>
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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	(vacant)		
CHAPLAIN	Bill Houghton	(281) 367-3159	whoughcloc@aol.com
ASS'T CHAPLAIN	Larry Reynolds	(-----) -----	
JUDGE ADVOCATE	Everett Ison	(281) 298-9524	everett.ison@sprint.com
HISTORIAN	Win Salter	(281) 370-1912	flintyeye@gmail.com
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POSITION ONE	Dayton Denton	(832) 928-6054	whselfstorage1@yahoo.com
POSITION TWO	Art Eipper	(832) 567-5806	artstarr99@yahoo.com
<u>AUXILIARY UNIT 305</u>			
PRESIDENT	Kathy Carroll	(281) 323-4985	kcarroll47@sbcglobal.net
VICE PRESIDENT	(vacant)		
SECRETARY (Act'g)	Dayna Salter	(281) 229-1365	dayna.salter@ymail.com
TREASURER	Dayna Salter	(281) 229-1365	dayna.salter@ymail.com
HISTORIAN	Jenny Hamann	(281) 907-3430	ala305pres@gmail.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
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POSITION THREE	Veronica Maiolo	(832) 228-4403	sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net