



THE BUGLE



JUNE 2018

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 OF THE WOODLANDS

POST COMMANDER
VICTORIA GLOVER



What a way to finish off May and head into June! Alas, my time as **Commander** ends, and another chapter in our books opens. I would like to thank each one of you for your support over the last two years.

At our May meeting we elected our new officers for 2018-2019. Here are the elected officers for Post 305; to your right.

Congratulations to everyone!

May closed out with a busy Memorial Day Weekend! The Woodlands Township held Memorial Day events on Sunday, May 27, at Town Green Park. We had a table set up for Post membership, plus there was a Joint Community Covenant Signing Ceremony where The American Legion and the VFW were signatories. Next, our Color Guard and Ladies Auxiliary attended the Houston National Cemetery Ceremony on Monday, May 28th.

On June 21st we will be holding our Unserviceable Flag Disposal Ceremony before the

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

ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2018-2019

Commander-----	Bruce Carter
First Vice Commander-----	Jim Bolin
Second Vice Commander-----	(none)
Adjutant-----	Pickens Jones
Finance Officer-----	Emery Heuermann
Service Officer-----	Toby Carroll
Sergeant-at-Arms-----	Harlen Thornhill
Chaplain-----	Bill Houghton
Judge Advocate-----	Pete Koch
Historian-----	(none)
Committeemen- Position 1-----	Victoria Glover
at-Large: Position 2-----	Norman Chapa, JD

meeting, indoors to avoid the heat or rain, and will conduct the officer installations during the meeting. So, everyone come on out and join us and support our new **Commander, Bruce Carter**, and his officers.

Boys State was a success with the sending of 28 boys to Austin. June 14th is Legion Day at Boys State. I will be planning a Boys State Honor Ceremony in the near future to recognize these wonderful young men. "Thank you" to all our sponsors for the Boys State program. Without your help and support, this program would not be possible. We are already looking forward to next year and hopefully sending more boys!

July is fast approaching, and we are looking for able-bodied members to participate in the

Color Guard for the July 4th Parade; those that can march the entire route. Please contact **Jim Bolin** for more information. If you would like to join up with the Color Guard, it will be happy to have you. The more the merrier.

Remember to check on friends and family that are vets. Don't let them go by the wayside, though they do not get to come out to our Post activities and meetings. Drop them a line or visit with them so they do not feel forgotten.

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

Victoria Glover
Commander

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (May 17, 2018)

Commander Victoria Glover was a few minutes late in ordering all officers to their stations and rapped the membership to its feet. She was late getting started because the Auxiliary was serving supper before the meeting, as advertised, and, being a new arrangement, supper was a little late. But, she conducted the opening ritual aided by **Sergeant-at-Arms Bruce Carter**. The **Commander** asked **Carter** as to a quorum being present. He responded affirmatively, there being 14 members present. The **Commander** gave the blessing of the membership.

Adjutant Pickens Jones had distributed copies of the Minutes of two past meetings – the April 19th membership meeting and the May 17th Executive Committee meeting. The first item of business was to read for approval those Minutes. With little comment, both were adopted by motion and voice vote. Next, the **Finance Officer, Emery Heuermann**, was asked to report. He also had distributed copies of the Finance Report for the period ending April 30th. In summary, the General Fund held \$12,135.02; the Investment Fund was at \$33,391.09 for a Total Liquid Assets of \$45,526.11. The General Fund included \$7,670.00 approximately, which will soon pay sponsorship for some of the boys attending Boys State, and the General Fund will be smaller. Value of Fixed Assets was estimated at \$8,064.67. The report was accepted by motion and voice vote, subject to audit.

First Vice Commander Jim Bolin had no oral report but had distributed a May tabulation on District 7 membership by Post. It showed Post 305 was at 250 paid-up members, with a goal of 322, or 77.64% of goal. That put the Post in fifth place among the District's 17 Posts. Post 305 is the second largest of the 17. The largest is Post 618 in Willis, which stands at 49.93% of its goal. The **Sergeant-at-Arms** had no report and **Historian Win Salter** was absent.

Judge Advocate Everett Ison arrived too late to offer a report, but he arrived just before the election of officers for 2018-2019. He was a help in insuring that the election proceeded correctly. **Service Officer Toby Carroll** was next to report. At any one time, **Carroll** has four or five "open cases" he is helping to get through the VA benefits entitlement and application processes. He recently liberated two copies of the new 2018 Benefits Booklet – Volume 2. The **Commander** reported on the Boys State program. The selections are completed and 28 high school juniors from five schools are this year's pick.

Under **New Business**, **First Vice Commander Bolin** reminded the membership that the Unserviceable Flag Disposal Ceremony will take place just before the next membership meeting and that there will be a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Houston National Cemetery at 9:00 AM on the 28th of May. The next item was the election and any nominations for election from the floor. **Nominating Committee Chairman Emery**



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 at Henry's Home Horse and Human Sanctuary in Conroe.

Heuermann was given the floor. **Heuermann** carefully presented each Post member who had been nominated by the Nominating Committee. Each nominee's name was presented along with their position. **Heuermann** asked if there were any other eligible members that want to stand for election for that position. If there were no other members interested in contesting that position, the nominated member was slated for election. When the entire slate was completed **Heuermann** moved to proceed with the election. The motion was seconded by **Bolin**, and the election was completed by asking for the vote of all present members. The members were elected and the membership of those present were pleased. The list of the incoming officers and their position next year are shown on page one of this Bugle.

There being no other business to come before the membership, **Commander Glover** closed the meeting as required in the regulations.



VETERANS ADVOCATE

NON-COMBAT CONDITIONS OF DISABILITY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR VA HELP

Many veterans often fail to file claims for disability benefits either because they are not

aware they can, or because they don't think their disability would be applicable. Disabilities need not be combat or even work related; they can be the result of playing sports, falling out of your barracks bed, participating in unit PT, or a car accident while on leave. Any veteran with a current health problem that they believe started on or as a result of their active duty service should consider filing a claim with the VA. For those already receiving VA disability benefits for service-connected conditions, be aware that disabilities seldom improve over time; they normally worsen. If a veteran who is service-connected for a disability feels that his/hers disability has gotten worse, they should apply to VA for a reevaluation of their disability level. Most veterans organizations will be able to fully explain the claims process, and will help complete all the necessary paperwork for submission to the VA.

[Source: Retired Officers Assoc. Bulletin; May 15, 2018]

TOP 10 REASONS VETERANS DO NOT APPLY FOR VA BENEFITS

1. **I don't trust the government** in matters of confidentiality and privacy!
2. **I didn't know I was eligible** for VA benefits!
3. **I am not eligible** because of the type discharge I received!
4. **I don't want to go through the "red tape"!**
5. **I don't know how** to file a claim!
6. **I make too much money** hence cannot pass a "needs" test!
7. **I was denied after the war** and decided it wasn't worth trying again!

8. **I don't know what to apply for;** what is an eligible condition?

9. **I can't prove my health problems are related to my time in the military!**

10. **Other veterans are more deserving!**

[Source: U. S. Veteran Compensation Programs; May 10, 2018]

VA IMPLEMENTS BETTER CLAIMS REVIEWS

On May 4th, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it is offering two opportunities for early participation in the new, more efficient claims decision review process outlined in the historic Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017. These two opportunities will allow eligible veterans to receive a review of a decision on a claim much faster than the current appeals process. "VA is committed to transforming the appeals process," said VA Acting Secretary Robert Wilkie. "This is evidenced by the success of Rapid Appeals Modernization Program which has seen over 12,000 Veterans opt-in. In addition, the Board of Veterans' Appeals has issued approximately 46,000 decisions this fiscal year — nearly 23,000 more decisions than last year at this time. We are on pace to reach a historical fiscal goal of 81,000 decisions."

First, VA will expand the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP) by removing the requirement that veterans first receive an invitation from VA in order to elect participation in the program. RAMP, which was initially launched in November 2017 as an invitation-only program, allows eligible veterans with a disability compen-

sation appeal early access to the Higher-Level Review and Supplemental Claim Lanes outlined in the Appeals Modernization Act. By removing the invitation requirement, veterans will have the opportunity to benefit from the new, more efficient decision review process, versus continuing to wait in the legacy appeal process. As of March 31, RAMP reviews were completed in an average of 52 days.

Second, in May, the Board of Veterans' Appeals launched its Early Applicability of Appeals Modernization (BEAAM) pilot project. Under this project, the Board will partner with the National Organization of Veterans' Advocates, Paralyzed Veterans of America and the California Department of Veterans Affairs to identify 50 veterans who are dissatisfied with a recent decision on their benefits claim. These veterans will participate in a study that allows them the option of appealing directly to the Board or seeking a review in RAMP. In this study, the Board will collect preliminary data about veteran choices and experiences.

Next October, the Board will begin deciding appeals from RAMP decisions using the features of the Appeals Modernization Act, specifically its new, separate Direct, Evidence and Hearing dockets. The expansion of RAMP, combined with the BEAAM, will allow VA to collect valuable data about implementation of the Appeals Modernization Act. [Source: OPIA News Release | May 4, 2018 ++]

NEW VA ID CARDS ARE GOING IN THE MAIL

Identification cards from the Department of Veterans Affairs' new program will be in the mail, on their way to veterans starting last month, VA officials said -- two months after they were initially scheduled to go out. Officials said in January that approved veterans would start receiving the free printed cards in early March. But, when March rolled around, printing was delayed to April. Now, a VA spokesman says the cards will be sent starting last month. "We expect to begin mailing cards in batches tomorrow to veterans whose applications have been reviewed and approved," Curtis Cashour told Military.com on May 4th.



All honorably discharged veterans can apply for the ID card, which was ordered by Congress in 2015. The card, which is not an official form of federal ID and does not qualify

veterans for any federal or military benefits, is meant to serve as proof of past military service at private businesses. Veterans who hold other identification showing service, such as a military ID or VA health ID card, do not need to apply. About 90,000 veteran applications for the card have been received, Cashour said. Of those, 21,000 have been approved and are awaiting printing and mailing. Veterans must apply for the card online. Just go to <https://www.vets.gov/-?next=%2Fveteran-id-card%2F>. Card applications are not available at VA facilities. The veteran ID card program has faced a series of delays and technical challenge since its November 2017 launch. A glut of applicants overwhelmed the system's server, and the application was put on hold for several weeks. Since applications reopened early this year, users have complained that their service records are reported as "not found," even though they receive other VA benefits such as the post-911 GI Bill. Others complained that their military service branch was not listed on the application pulldown menu. [Source: Military.com | Amy Bushatz | May 3, 2018 ++]

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Post Service Officer Toby Carroll: Tel: (281) 323-498
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

NATIONAL POPPY DAY

On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the first world war. In 1924, the distribution of poppies became a national program of The American Legion. Each year, members of The American Legion family, led by the American Legion Auxiliary, distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs. Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. This year, The American Legion brought National Poppy Day to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day as National Poppy Day

After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists attributed the growth to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew a beautiful red poppy. The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shed during battle following the publication of the wartime poem "In Flanders Fields". The poem was written by Canadian Lt. Colonel John McCrea, M.D. while serving on the front lines.

{Source: ROA Bulletin; May 15, 2018.}



IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you with failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep,
 though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields

UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE POST AND UNIT

There is a matter potentially affecting all members which they should be aware of. It is the place where we meet monthly in committee and as a membership. We are not being impacted by any push by the management of the South County Community Center, other than the occasional denial of the large room where the Post meets and joint sessions take place. Members of the Auxiliary have identified an alternative meeting venue in the same area as the SCCC, and see some advantages to changing to that location. It is the Sts. Simon and Jude's Church (Catholic) community center at 26777 Glen Loch Drive in The Woodlands.

The advantages and disadvantages of such change are being defined and evaluated by the existing and incoming officers of both units, but a more organized joint meeting and debate is needed. Readers can expect to hear more in the near future.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMING NOVEMBER

Here we are just into June with new officers selected and elected, with November five months away. Why worry about November now? It is called "planning ahead". Now admittedly the Post does too little in celebration of Veterans Day, but the Auxiliary will be out at stores, post offices, churches and maybe on the Mall at poppy stands, doling out the little red flower symbols described to your far left. This week the Unit did the best ever in obtaining donations. Some credit goes to **Win Salter**, who finally saw his two sign easels and signs made for the Post/Unit put into use.

This November marks the centennial of the armistice which ended World War I and the formation of The American Legion. Less of a focus here are Election Day, Marine Corps Birthday and Thanksgiving, and perhaps the Boys State Honor Ceremony. The Legion has for several years been urging all Posts to participate in its World War I Centennial Commission by creating their own pages of their history, by kindling interest in World War I, by forming a roll of record of forbears who fought and lived or died in the battles over there, by donating toward building a national memorial.

Make 2018 the year we reaffirm Americans never forget any man or woman who sacrificed their life or stood shoulder to shoulder with buddies, defending the freedoms and liberty we still cherish. Although the "war to end all wars" was an impossible dream, it was the war that ushered in The American Century

PROGRAMS & NEWS OF THE AUXILIARY UNIT 305

I am writing this on Memorial Day. Although the stores have been bombarding us with information about their sales for the "holiday" weekend, I was impressed that the news media emphasized that today was a day of remembrance. The ceremony at the Houston National Cemetery was impressive and no one can remain unmoved when you look across the cemetery and see 73,000 flags marking the graves of the fallen. The guest speaker reminded everyone that America is a land of freedoms like no other country on earth, and we owe these freedoms not to the press or the politicians or the rally organizers. It is the veterans who assure us of these freedoms. A recurring theme today was "All gave some, and some gave all", and it is important that we never forget this.

One of the most important things that happened in May was our election of officers for the 2018-2019 year. The new officers are as follows:

President: Kathy Carroll

Vice-President: Dora Blue

Secretary: Susan Luck

Treasurer: Dayna Salter

Sgt.-at-Arms: (open)

Chaplain: Barbara Foret

Historian: Jenny Hamann

Committee Members-at-Large:

Position 1: Joan Charest

Position 2: Betty Lips

Position 3: Geri Mulvihill

I think it is very exciting that all positions have been filled except for Sergeant-at-Arms and that two of our newest members have stepped up and volunteered to be on the Executive Committee. I look forward to a new and exciting

year. Our installation of officers will take place at our June meeting. Liz Bryant, District 7 Auxiliary President, will preside. I hope that many of you will be able to attend. It will be nice if we have an "audience" to witness the installation.

May 25th was National Poppy Day and of course we distributed poppies this Memorial Day weekend. Members of our Unit were at two Ace Hardware stores and at Sts. Simon and Jude Church. **Rosalie Fryer**, our poppy chairman, reported that we had our best poppy weekend ever. This money goes to our VA&R fund and will let us do great things for our veterans.

June has several patriotic days that we should recognize. June 6th is the anniversary of the D-Day invasion. June 14, 1775, the U.S. Army was established. On June 22, 1942, the Pledge of Allegiance was recognized by Congress and on this day in 1944 the GI Bill was signed into law. The Korean War began on June 25, 1950. One day that we should definitely observe is June 14th, Flag Day. Here is a bit of flag trivia for you. Our current flag is actually the 27th flag we have had since 1775. It was designed by a 17 year old student as a history project for school. Anticipating the addition of Alaska and Hawaii, he designed the flag with 13 stripes and 50 stars. His teacher was not too impressed and gave him a "B-" for the project. Despite this, he submitted his design for the new flag to Washington DC, and, in 1959, President Eisenhower chose his design out of 1,500



President Kathy Carroll

applicants. Subsequently, the teacher changed his grade to an "A". So remember to fly your flag proudly on Flag Day.

The Department of Texas Annual Convention will be held in San Antonio, TX, July 13-15, 2018. Although that is six weeks from now, I do have to register the Unit and delegates in June. So if you are planning to attend I need to know by June 5th. If I do not hear from you, I will assume that you are not planning to attend. Please let me know as soon as possible.

Also mark your calendars for the 4th of July. Once again we will be participating with the Post in The Woodlands Independence Day Parade. We will send more information closer to the date, but plan on attending.

Our next meeting will be on June 21, 2018, at the South County Community Center. We will have a meal with the Post at 6:30 PM and the meeting will start at 7:30 PM. Hope to see all of you there.

God Bless our Veterans, God Bless our men and women in uniform, and God Bless the United States of America.

**Kathy Carroll,
President, ALA Unit 305**

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Wed	June 6	D-Day (1944)		Normandy Beach Landings
Thur	June 14	Flag Day		Show the Colors!
Sun	June 17	Father's Day		
Mon	June 18	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Center	@ 7:00 PM
Thur	June 21	Unserviceable Flag Disposal Ceremony	SCCC	@ 6:00 PM
Thur	June 21	Membership Meetings (Installation of Officers)	SCCC	@ 7:00 PM
Mon	June 25	Korean War Began (1950)		
Wed	July 4	Independence Day Parade	The Woodlands.	Assemble @ 8:00 AM
Wed	July 11 to 15	Department Convention	Omni Colonnade Hotel;	San Antonio
Mon	July 16	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Center	@ 7:00 PM
Thur	July 19	Membership Meetings	South County Community Center	@ 7:00 PM
Fri	July 27	Korean War Ceasefire (1953)		
Sat	July 28	World War I Began (1914)		
Tues	Aug 7	Vietnam War Began (1964)		
Mon	Aug 13	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Center	@ 7:00 PM
Tues	Aug 14	Japan Surrendered. WWII Ended (1945)		
(REMINDER: Pot-Luck Supper is served in advanced of Membership Meetings @ 6:15 PM)				

POST & AUXILIARY UNIT CONTACT INFORMATION (2017-2018)

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEL. NO.</u>	<u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u>
POST 305			
COMMANDER	Victoria Glover	(832) 813-9415	ALPostcmdrvickie@gmail.com
FIRST VICE CMDR.	Jim Bolin	(281) 251-2352	jpb20006@sbcglobal.net
SECOND VICE CMDR.	(vacant)		
ADJUTANT	Pickens Jones	(281) 367-7631	pickensjones@usa.net
FINANCE OFFICER	Emery Heuermann	(281) 362-8431	emeryheuermann@charter.net
SERVICE OFFICER	Toby Carroll	(281) 323-4085	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	(vacant)		
JUDGE ADVOCATE	Everett Ison	(281) 298-9524	everett.ison@sprint.com
HISTORIAN	Win Salter	(281) 370-1912	flintyeye@gmail.com
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:			
POSITION ONE	Harlen Thornhill	(936) 520-8588	harlen@consolidated.net
POSITION TWO	(vacant)		
AUXILIARY UNIT 305			
PRESIDENT	Kathy Carroll	(281) 323-4085	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
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:			
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POSITION TWO	Sandie Holzinger	(281) 364-8590	zing4@earthlink.net
POSITION THREE	Veronica Maiolo	(832) 228-4403	sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net