



# THE BUGLE

MARCH 2018

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 3



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 OF THE WOODLANDS

POST COMMANDER  
VICTORIA GLOVER



Commander

My how time flies, March already. It was a quiet month in February.

The meeting attendance was very sparse. Our Boys State interviews have started and are half-way complete. The Four Chaplains Service is going to be held at the March meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>. It was postponed due to the Chaplains weren't able to be there. I want to thank those that were there at the last meeting for giving some ideas. I will be looking into them and get them going.

With all the cold, wet, warm weather we are having be mindful with the flu epidemic going on. Do not think you will get over it easily. It does tend to hit the young and old worse and turns sepsis quickly. Go to the doctor if you need to. If you cannot get there or need the funds, let us know. We are here to help. It is no laughing matter about this flu. It is very deadly. If you have it, or think you have it, stay home and get medical help, period. Don't worry about missing a meeting

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

if you are sick. We would much rather you get well.

We need volunteers to start stepping up to help with activities and to step up to the plate, becoming a Post Officer. Plus, there is a need for a new Boys State Program Committee Chairman for next year. We will help you along the way in learning the offices you would like to be in. Let us all work together in making this Post better.

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

Victoria Glover  
Commander

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (February 15, 2018)

[*The Bugle* at times has to stretch to find "highlights" and that was the case on the eve of February 15th. Although the weather turned warm, only eight Post members were present – a "thin blue line". If dual member Dora Blue, who was present, elected to sit with the Post, the Post would have been a wee bit bluer. And, adding to our blues, we were evicted from the usual large meeting room by a phalanx of

voting machines and had to meet in a much smaller room.]

At 7:00 PM sharp, **Commander Victoria Glover** rapped the room to its feet and conducted the usual opening ritual, without the help of the Chaplain (absent) and the Sergeant-at-Arms (absent). **Adjutant Pickens Jones** had distributed copies of the minutes of the January 18, 2018, membership meeting and the February 12, 2018, Executive Committee meeting. These were reviewed by the quorum present and were approved as written by voice vote.

There was no Finance Report; the **F/O Emery Heuermann** was hospitalized, laid low by influenza. The **First Vice Commander Jim Bolin** reported on membership, stating that the Post had currently 227 paid-up members and ranked fifth among District 7 Posts. With a goal of 322, the level of goal achievement was 70,5%.

The **Adjutant** and **Service Officer Toby Carroll** had no report. **Historian Win Salter** stated he needed to contact **Lacey Homan**, who is assisting with the Yearbook, to get event photos to her. The **Commander** defined the schedule of interviews of high school juniors who are interested in being selected for Boys State. She is still soliciting help of Post

members to participate, trying to substitute for past **Committee Chairman Dayton Denton**, who has resigned as Chairman and as Committeeman-at-Large. **Pete Koch** raised the question as to whether **Kim Biggerstaff** was handling the awards to JROTC cadet-students, but there was no one present who could answer that clearly.

**First Vice Bolin** rose to announce the 2018 "Birdies For Charity" fundraiser drive. He distributed pledge forms – a new design – and ran through the pledge or donation procedures. All pledges and checks must be back to Jim as of the March 15<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. The deadline of the Houston Open is March 26. **Jim** cited recent past-year winning Birdie numbers: 2013=(1615); 2014=(1612); 2015=(1843); 2016=(1571); 2017=(1661). The first prize is \$500.00.

The **Commander** in trying to create activity among Post members, with or without Auxiliary members, suggested a joint picnic in April, perhaps at Henry's Home–Horse & Human Sanctuary. There was no objection among the meager audience. She asked about other ideas of Post extra-curricular activities. **Win Salter** cited **Geri Mulvihill's** effort to create comprehensive list of possible events and his older memo he sent her. But, as usual, good ideas just get filed, he said.

**Commander Glover** stated that the Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony, usually held each February meeting, was rescheduled to the March meeting because of the absence of both chaplains this week.

Belately, one guest (and new Post member) was introduced. He was **Greg Decwair**, four-year USN veteran of the Vietnam War era. Welcome aboard, Greg!

There being no other business to come before the Post, the **Commander** closed the meeting in the customary manner. The members repaired to the opposite end of the room where the Auxiliary had assembled a super soup 'n salad kitchen.

**[Footnote:** The Auxiliary is also participating in Birdies and, during the pot-luck repast, issued a challenge to the Post, to wit: The unit which makes the highest "investment" in Birdies (valid pledges plus donations) shall be treated by the other unit to a special picnic outing at a location named by the Auxiliary on a date to be determined. It was unclear whether anyone present of the Post had the authority to accept the challenge, the **Commander** having left the building.]



**VETERANS ADVOCATE**

**VA's FAST TRACK CLAIMS PROCESSING SYSTEM**

The Agent Orange Fast Track Claims Processing System is dedicated to processing claims for Vietnam veterans who are claiming service connection for any of the following conditions who served in the Republic of Vietnam or on inland waterways



**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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American Legion Post 305

P. O. Box 9336

The Woodlands, Texas, 77387

**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.

between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.:

- [Ischemic Heart Disease](#)
- [Hairy Cell and other B-Cell Leukemias](#)
- [Parkinson's Disease](#)
- [Diabetes Type II](#)
- [Prostate Cancer](#)
- [Multiple Myeloma](#)
- [Hodgkin's Disease](#)

The Fast Track system is exclusively a web-based platform. Whereas, veterans can simply log on to the VA web portal and submit their claims documentation, supporting medical evidence from all sources and any other documentation needed to establish and verify their service-connected claim. VA doctors will have access to the Fast Track system that will enable them to take the veteran out of the role as middle man between care providers and the VA. VA doctors can then fill out the forms and submit them online quickly and easily. VA rating specialists will be able to log on to the system, identify outstanding information on the way to [fully developing a claim \(FDC\)](#) and give a suggested rating at the end of the automated process.

You can apply for VA disability compensation and pension online through eBenefits at [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov). For disability compensation claims, you can also upload all supporting evidence you may have and make your claim a Fully Developed Claim.

~ To file a claim for VA disability compensation electronically, go to eBenefits, select Apply for Benefits and then Apply for Disability Compensation. You will need to create an eBenefits account to apply

for disability compensation online

.  
~ To file a claim for VA pension electronically, go to eBenefits, select Apply for Benefits, and then select Apply for Veterans Benefits via VONAPP. Once you submit your claim, you can track the status using eBenefits

The Fully Developed Claim (FDC) Program is the fastest way to get your claim processed and there is no risk to participate! To participate in the FDC Program, if you are making a claim for veterans disability compensation or related compensation benefits, simply submit your claim in accordance with the "FDC Criteria" shown on VA-Form 21-526EZ, *Application For Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits*. If you are making a claim for veterans non service-connected pension benefits, use VA Form 21-527EZ, *Application for Pension*. If you are making a claim for survivor benefits, use VA Form 21-534EZ, *Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits*. Forms are available at: [www.va.gov/vaforms](http://www.va.gov/vaforms).

Veterans who find computers challenging may want to consult with their VSO or find help from a computer specialist to help them navigate the Fast Track system. Some veterans have reported that the Fast Track system seems cumbersome and confusing. [Source: U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs | David Fuller | February 9, 2018 ++]

## **SENATE BILL HOPES TO RESTORE SOME GUN OWNERSHIP RIGHTS LOST BY VA ACTIONS**

A group of bipartisan U.S. Senators has filed legislation to reverse the fact that some vets are losing their right to keep and bear arms because someone is handling their finances. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley — joined by fellow Iowa Republican Senator Joni Ernst and West Virginia Democrat Senator Joe Manchin — introduced S.2386, which could tackle how the Department of Veterans Affairs reports veterans to the FBI's National Criminal Background Check System.

Currently, a veteran assigned a fiduciary trustee to act on their behalf is automatically declared "mentally defective" and is reported to NICS, the database Federal Firearms Licensees use to determine whether a prospective buyer is eligible to buy guns. Grassley feels to do so is a Second Amendment violation. "Veterans are losing their Second Amendment rights because they have someone managing their checkbook," Grassley said on the floor of the Senate. As of December 31, 2016, NICS had active records on 167,824 veterans reported by the VA for mental health reasons. This figure is down from 260,381 in 2015. Still, Grassley points out that 98 percent of the names in the gun check system listed by federal agencies for mental health reasons come from the VA alone.

Termed the "**Veterans' Second Amendment Rights Restoration Act of 2018**", the language of the bill would force

the VA to overhaul who they report to NICS. Rather than use the fiduciary rule, similar to one proposed by the Social Security Administration and repealed by Congress, the VA would have to submit individuals to a board made up of three former judicial officers or administrative law judges or through a judicial process. While it would not automatically remove those currently reported to the FBI, those with active files would be able to challenge their classification and all would be given notice by the VA of their rights to due process. "When a constitutional right is involved, the burden must always be on the government," said Grassley. The measure has been referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. [Source: Guns.com | Chris Eger | February 8, 2018 ++]

**VA EASES ENTRY WITH A WELCOME KIT**

VA's onboarding process can be overwhelming at times. Veterans who have visited a VA outreach booth, VA eligibility office, or have gone through a Transition Assistance Program know that VA has no shortage of technical handouts, benefits books and materials. But, even with all of these resources, veterans are telling us "Where do I start?" Now, VA can point all veterans to the **VA WELCOME KIT**. Tune in to: <https://www.vets.gov/welcome-to-va> to check it out No matter where you are in life, the new welcome kit will help you use the VA benefits and services you have earned. In addition to the step-by-step enrollment instructions, the kit also lists points of contact for dozens of VA program offices.

- Health Care

- Finances
- Housing
- Employment
- Education
- Memorialization
- More Support

"The welcome kit is so simple, it's the way everything needs to work in VA," said VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin. The kit is now available on [Vets.gov](http://Vets.gov) and will soon be sent to all separating service members as part of VA's existing welcome home process. The Veterans Experience Office created the welcome kit using human-centered design principles, including the feed-back of more than 150 veterans throughout the country. The guide will continue to be updated based

on additional feedback and information.

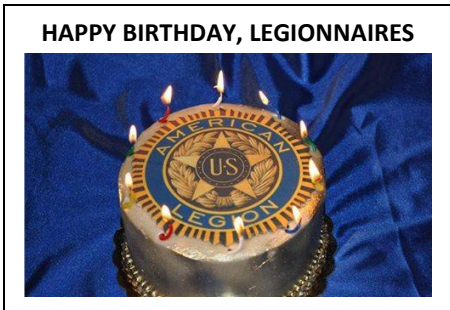
The kit was distributed and warmly received at the Student Veterans of America conference in San Antonio, Texas. Veterans commented, "I wish I had this when I got out" and "I've never seen something from VA like this." While the VA kit does not provide all of the technical information on VA's pro-grams included in the [Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors](#) handbook, it does provide a summary and the steps required to enroll in VA services. Download the kit, print it out and share it and please give us your feedback on it! [Source: VAnAge Point | February 1, 2018 ++]

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**  
**Post Service Officer Toby Carroll:** Tel: (281) 323-498  
 e-mail: [toby.carroll@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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



**YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION AND POST 305**

Each member of Post 305 elected to join The American

Legion and Post 305, being eligible for such privilege based on honorable service in a branch of the US military during a wartime era. You are wartime veterans and are recognized as such by your Legion caps and other official and casual uniform parts, patches and pins.

There is a price for such membership and some obligations too. The price is the annual dues payment. The obligations include participation in Post doings and contributions

of time and energies in support of Post programs. With over 300 members, Post 305 (and most other Posts) includes many members who have yet to be seen by the officers, who are not active in Post activities and who hardly ever come to a meeting, for one or more reasons, and those are largely **Ability, Priorities** and **Interest**.

**Ability** includes the physical ability to be present, largely health and mobility issues. The Post officers and operations can do little to improve **Ability**. **Priorities** are the time options the member has and how a Post meeting ranks among those. Some priorities leave little choice such as evening teaching at Lone Star, or a requirement to remain at home to care for a spouse, or reluctance to drive at night. **Interest** is the opinion which has formed about a Post meeting as compared to other activities a member has to engage in, both in the home and out on the town. Post officers, the agendas and the programs they elect can do better to pique Interest and change the **Priorities** and **Interest** of some of you.

A never-ending challenge is obtaining dues payments within the deadlines set by the Legion. Post 305's annual dues are \$36.00, but only \$5.00 of that stays with the Post. Of the dues collected, \$31.00 per member must be sent to the Department of Texas for its operations and those of National.

The Legion year is the calendar year --- January 1 to December 31, and dues are payable in advance by October 20. Members who have not paid their dues by certain deadlines are earmarked by a modifier, per Legion By-Laws. Those who

have not paid their current year dues by January 1, are labeled "delinquent". If those dues are still unpaid by February 1, the member is "suspended" and loses all Legion privileges, except for the right of reinstatement by Post vote and payment of dues. If those dues remain unpaid, the member's membership continues for a period of five months, until June 30, at which time the member is dropped from the rolls and membership has "expired". However, that member's name continues to be displayed on Post records for purposes of attempting his or her reup.

A member may "resign" from the Post at any time for various reasons, but resignation is not a recognized cause of departure. Non-payment of dues is. A member with expired membership can thereafter join another Post as a new member, or rejoin his or her old Post, but continuity of Legion membership is broken. No rebate of dues applies. Alternatively, a member in good standing may request transfer to another Post provided the receiving Post has approved the transfer. All out-of-State transfers must be initiated by the receiving Post.

Legionnaires of the Texas Statewide Post 345 may at any time elect to join an active local Post. If such member's dues have been paid at Post 345, that is honored as the transfer takes place. Transfer-Ins cannot be included in the Post's goal achievement in their first year in the local Post. Eligible veterans joining the American Legion in Texas are often assigned to Post 345 as a holding action, until they select which local Post they want to join. Too many just stay there and never see nor understand the advantages of belonging to

a local Post of neighbors and friends, where they can be useful in participating in what programs and projects that Post has elected to work. Further, there are many opportunities to seek and become an officer of the local Post, where such headshed is comprised of from 10 to 12 positions, in general. All Posts seek new members who will become regular attendees and are interested enough to take on responsibility. Post 305 needs new active members, whether from the current ranks of non-actives or from Post 345 or from veterans who have yet to become a Legionnaire.

Post 305's current roster has names of 306 members and, of these, 225 have paid their current dues (year 2017-2018). The balance (81) last paid for year 2016-2017 and are "in suspension". These figures exclude ten members who have gone to final muster in the year, prominent among them being Dave Lips, Joe Watz, Dewey O'Neal and Charlie Siragusa, prominent only because of their long association with Post 305 and/or their frequent presence at meetings.

The Post's annual goal is 322, so the level of goal achievement as of March 1<sup>st</sup> is 69.9%, and, given a roster down to 306, it is unlikely we will reach more than 74% by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

But, we exist in a pool of potentials -- Legionnaires who belong to the State-wide Post 345. Residing within three miles of our Zip are 137 Post 345 members who are paid up for 2018 or 2017. We need to wade into this pool and either "fish or cut bait". Which are you best at? Let the First Vice Commander know, ASAP.

# PROGRAMS & NEWS OF THE AUXILIARY UNIT 305

KATHY CARROLL, PRESIDENT

After all the rain we have had since the first of the year, I am glad to welcome March. Daylight Savings Time begins soon and the first day of Spring is right around the corner – new beginnings. However, in the ALA, our year for keeping track of service hours ends on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Our Unit reports are due to District, Division and Department by April. That is why it is so important for you to report your hours to me this month. I know that many of you are probably thinking that you didn't do much so you don't have anything to report, but I think you are wrong. You have probably done more than you think. Anything you have done for a veteran, unless the veteran lives with you, is considered veteran hours. And anything you have done for friends, neighbors or the community is considered community service. With Hurricane Harvey having such a big effect on the Houston area, I'm sure many of you helped others without thinking that this is community service. So, sit down with your calendar and review the past year. I'm sure you will be surprised at how much you have actually done.

At the March meeting we will hold the Four Chaplains ceremony. We usually do this in February but since the Post and Unit Chaplains were unable to attend that meeting, it was postponed until this month. The ceremony commemorates the sacrifices of the four Army Chaplains and crew of the SS *Dorchester* in World War II and also exemplifies the meaning of service before self. These chaplains were ordinary men who made an extraordinary sacrifice. It is important to keep this legacy alive.

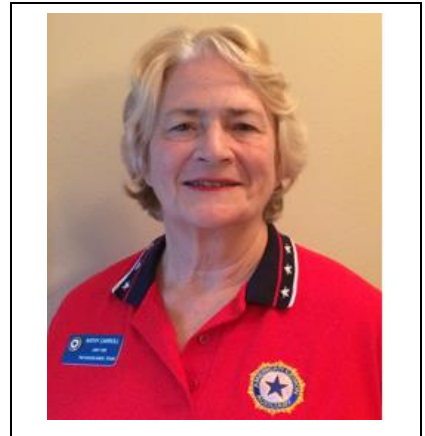
March 25<sup>th</sup> is the day for Red, White and Bike. Our Unit will once again staff a refresh stop for the participants in this race. Red, White and Bike is a non-profit

organization that raises funds to provide quality bikes for the children of wounded and fallen soldiers. Our Unit has supported their efforts for several years because we believe in their goals, and it is an enjoyable and satisfying experience for our members. If you would like to participate, contact **Dayna Salter** at 281-229-1365.

At the May meeting, we will be electing our officers for the 2018-2019 year. All positions are open. The Nominating Committee is already at work. If you are interested in a position or know of someone who would be good in any of the positions, please contact **Rosalie Fryer**, chairman of the Nominating Committee, at 936-520-8895. It would be wonderful if we have a full slate of officers next year. So, if the Nominating Committee contacts you about a position, please thoughtfully consider its request.

We are not at 100% for membership. If you have not renewed, you still have time. If you lost your renewal notice, you can send your check for \$27 for Seniors or \$7.50 for Juniors to me at **Kathy Carroll**, 31322 Whispering Oaks Lane, Spring, TX 77386, or give it to me at the March meeting.

February 28<sup>th</sup> was Armed Forces Appreciation Day at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The Rodeo Committee really makes this a wonderful experience for veterans and active duty personnel from all over Texas and Louisiana. One of the activities that we attended was the swearing-in of 500 new recruits in all five branches of the service. But, the thing that left the biggest impression on me was something that the Major General who conducted the swearing-in



ceremony said. He said that there are 330 million people in the United States and of that number only 1% are in the military. As Americans, we assume that our military will always protect and defend us both here and abroad and our Allies expect us to come to their aid. What a huge responsibility and heavy burden this is for that 1%! This one fact should make it easy for us to recommit ourselves to fulfill the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at the South County Community Center at 7:00 PM. The potluck will have a St. Patrick's Day theme with corned beef as the main entrée. Please contact **Gene Wilson** or **Rosalie Fryer** with what you plan to bring. Hope to see you there.



God bless our veterans, 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>
Mon.	Mar. 12	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Center @	7:00 PM
Thur.	Mar. 15	Membership Meetings (AL Birthday)	South County Community Center @	7:00 PM
Sat.	Mar. 17	St. Patricks Day	Wearin' of the Green	
Sun.	Mar. 25	Red, White & Bike Road Race	Auxiliary @ Oil Ranch Rest Stop (All Day)	
Sun.	Apr. 1	Easter Sunday & April Fool's Day		
Mon.	Apr. 16	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Center @	7:00 PM
Thur.	Apr. 19	Membership Meetings	South County Community Center @	7:00 PM
Sat.	Apr 21	District 7 Convention	Post 618, Willis	
Tue.	May 8	VE Day (1945)	WWII Ends in Europe	
Sun.	May 13	Mother's Day		
Mon.	May 14	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Center @	7:00 PM
Thur.	May 17	Membership Meetings (Elections)	South County Community Center @	7:00 PM
Sat.	May 19	Armed Forces Day		
Mon	May 28	Memorial Day (Observed)	Troop the Colors at the National Cemetery	
Wed	June 6	D-Day (1944)	Normandy Beach Landings	
Thru	June 14	Flag Day	Show the Colors!	
Sun	June 17	Father's Day		

### POST & AUXILIARY UNIT CONTACT INFORMATION (2017-2018)

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEL. NO.</u>	<u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u>
<b><u>POST 305</u></b>			
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	(vacant)		
POSITION TWO	Art Eipper	(832) 567-5806	artstarr99@yahoo.com
<b><u>AUXILIARY UNIT 305</u></b>			
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:			
POSITION ONE	Joan Charest	(281) 363-9710	rrge26@aol.com
POSITION TWO	Sandie Holzinger	(281) 364-8590	zing4@earthlink.net
POSITION THREE	Veronica Maiolo	(832) 228-4403	sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net