

FRA, LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269

<http://www.fra269.org>

BRANCH OFFICERS

President – Larry Starland
(day)820-8789(eve)863-8474
Treasurer – Laurie Bailey
Vice-President – Larry Cox
553-9025
Secretary – Darlene Hines
824-2589
Jr. Past President – Chuck Hines

BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fred Bolz	Cori Janney	Mike Sparks
Bill Farmer	John Janney	Bobbi Sutton
Perry Friend	Don Kopczynski	Jon Sutton
Chuck Hines	John Lookabill	John Tharp
Mark Hunter	Larry Pepper	

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Chaplain – Bobbi Sutton 875-4010	Historian – Laurie Bailey
Master-at-Arms – Eric Bourgeois	Legislative Affairs – Fred Bolz
Amer/Pat – Larry Cox	Ways & Means – Larry Pepper
Membership – Don Kopczynski	Youth Activities – John Tharp
By-Laws & Budget – Chuck Hines	Audit – John Janney
Public Relations – Mr. P.R. Starland	WEB Masters – Dana & Charlotte Johnson
VAVS – Fred Bolz	

LAFRA UNIT 269

LAFRA269@aol.com

UNIT OFFICERS

President – Rusty Wenzel
797-2337
Treasurer – Linda Cox
553-9025
Vice-President – Barbara Addington
Secretary – Tina Bohannon
442-3313
Jr. Past President – Pat Suckow

UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen Adams	Nancy Bullis	Wanda Seay
Pat Bischoff	Erin Giannetto	Nancy Vella
Annmarie Bolz	Joann Ludwig	

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMEN

Chaplain – Pat Bischoff 764-0927	Youth Activities – The Unit
Membership – Barbara Addington	Amer/Pat – Linda Cox
Sergeant-at-Arms – Karen Adams	Unit Activities – Gail Nathan
Publicity – Tina Bohannon	VAVS – Erin Giannetto
Welfare – Rusty Wenzel	Audit – Erin Giannetto
Merry Widows – Betty Harris	

BRANCH PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I did, I turned 62, cut my work week in half, and got on the Government Doles (Social Security). Life couldn't get much better..... in spite of the economy. 2008's economy was the worst in years, 2009's outlook doesn't seem to be much better, but CHANGE is on the way. So with the economy so bad, it seems to me that the best place you can enjoy yourself and not spend too much money is at the Home. Good friends, great food, cold beer and fantastic service. Doesn't get much better.

This year we need to continue to recruit new members, but more important is retaining the members we have. If you haven't seen a shipmate lately, give him a call and ask why. Make sure his membership is up to date. All the youth activities we sponsor, NJROTC, food baskets, VA support, Essay scholarships, depend on the membership dues that are returned to us from National. We as a group did a lot last year to support the community. I know most of our members would like to continue our efforts in the coming year. Recruit and Retain. Think of it as going on R & R.

4 Jan. 1910. Commissioning of USS Michigan (BB-27) first dreadnought battleship. 9 Jan. 1861. Union steamer Star of the West fired on in Charleston Harbor. 16 Jan. 1991. Operation Desert Storm, liberation of Kuwait from Iraq, begins. 21 Jan. 1954. Launching of Nautilus, first nuclear submarine, at Groton, CT. 23 Jan. 1968. USS Pueblo seized by North Korean forces in Sea of Japan. 31 Jan. 1981. Era of Enlisted Aviators ends when last pilot retired.

This months input will be short, it's a Holiday thing, besides my notes are missing and I have to get to Dunkin Donuts before the New Year arrives. Di-Da-Di-Da-Dit.

In Loyalty, Protection, and Service.
Larry M. Starland

AMERICANISM/PATRIOTISM - DECEMBER 2008

Need a New Year's Resolution? Try: I resolve to volunteer at the Fleet!

Essay judging will take place January 3, 10 & 17 at Noon! This is a **BIG** job that requires many volunteers. The more volunteers we have, the easier it is. Please assist in this effort.

Yours in L/P/S,
Larry Cox
RMCM(SS) USN RET

LUAU – JANUARY 24th

The Pig will be served 1830hrs (6:30pm)

Luau complete with the Pig! Put on your best Hawaiian shirt or grass skirt; practice your hula and limbo. What is your favorite umbrella drink?

Tickets are on sale at the Home at the price of \$8.00 each. There will be a limit of tickets available base on the size of pig we get. **DON'T WAIT TO GET YOUR TICKET!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

SUPER BOWL- February 1st

Super Bowl Sunday is February 1st. Your Low Country Home is planning a Super Bowl blast. There will be an open bar with lots of munchies and a surprise for someone every time the score changes.

There's a sign-up sheet at the bar. Check at The Home for further details. S/M Larry Pepper (553-9121 or larry.pepper@comcast.net) is your party coordinator.

The party starts at 1800hrs with kick-off approximately 1820hrs.

ELVIS WILL BE BACK – February 14th

February 14th: Elvis is back with Tom Jones for Valentine's Day! Tickets are \$15.00 now and \$20.00 at the door. Bring your sweetheart and enjoy the fun.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

We need ideas for a special St. Patrick's Day celebration. Please leave suggestions in the box at the home.

MADAM PREZ's CORNER

I sincerely wish all of the Ladies and Shipmates a very good New Year filled with good health and prosperity. I also hope that you all received everything that you wished for at Christmas. I am positive that every one of you join with me in wishing for safety for our troops and a quick return to their families.

I certainly hope that you joined with us for a delightful Christmas party. Santa made a stop at FRA's Home for the little ones to sit on his lap and have their picture taken. If you missed it this year, perhaps he will put us on his list for next year. I wish that you all enjoyed our New Year's eve party.

Ladies, at the end of our year we have a lot of reports to submit to the SER. You can help if you keep track of a few hours that you spend during the year. Fly your flag? How often, and how long. Visit nursing homes and hospitals? Again how often, and how long. Keep track of how many condolence cards and get well cards you send. Work with the young people? In addition to the hours, specify what area it is in, i.e. Scouts, Sunday School, sports or any other youth related activity. How about poll workers at election time? This is just a few examples, but is you submit your hours it will go long way towards our successful reports.

Please make plans to join the Ladies for their luncheon at Poblamos on the third Tuesday. The restaurant is on Rivers Avenue across from Wal-mart. January 20th, at 11:30.

Speaking of January, our General Assembly meeting will be on the 13th. This is so we will have our meeting before the Branch General Assembly.

If it is your birthday, my very best wishes. If you are feeling poorly or you are in the hospital, get well soon. My sincere condolences if you have suffered a loss.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service, Rusty

UNIT CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIPS

Neta Fewox 41yrs	Linda Jacobs 6 yrs	Jetta Williams 1yr
Rusty Wenzel 30 yrs	Nancy Parker 3yrs	Bonnie McElroy 1yr
Dorothy Nephew 16yrs	Patricia Keeler 2yrs	Cory Leblanc 1yr
Dorothy Brace 10yrs	Marguerite Descoteaux 2yrs	Kimberly Sparkman 1yr
Myranda Stone 6yrs	Bonnie Marion 2yrs	Regina Clark 1yr
Taffy Clark 6yrs	Cynthia Knudsen 1yr	

Merry Widows Support Group

The Merry Widows will meet at the FRA Home on January 13th at 11:30am.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection, & Service,
Betty Harris - 552-1416 or C# 412-6753

TOYS FOR TOTS

Way to go!!!!!! To give you a quick breakdown the Branch and Unit each donated \$200.00; Shipmates, Auxiliary members, and friends purchased over \$400.00 or ornaments and raffle tickets; then there it could have been well over \$500.00 worth of toys dropped off.

Santa helpers were very good this year. THANK YOU!!!!!!

PIZZA NIGHT

WEDNESDAY AT THE FLEET

The Fleet is now offering pizza on Wednesday nights. Priced from \$5.00 to \$6.50. Check out what Chef Jeff can do. Plenty of toppings to pick from. Come to the Fleet and enjoy.

UP COMING EVENTS at FRA, LOW COUNTRY HOME

Mark your calendar, watch for details, watch for additions

Friday nights, 1900hrs – Scotch Doubles, 8-ball Tournament

Saturday nights, 2000hrs – In-House 8-ball Tournament

January 24th, 1830hrs - Luau

February 1st, 1800hrs - Super Bowl Party

February 14th – Elvis Show

Subject to change and additions.

CONVENTION UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CASE CLOSED

After receiving the judgment in writing, a trip downtown took place on December 2nd to file it with the clerk of courts. This judgment would remain on file for ten years just waiting a transaction to take place in the defendant's name and/or company. Guess what? On December 11th I received a phone call from a law firm working on a real estate transaction needing a letter faxed to them on our letterhead stating what we were due. The following morning there was a knock at the door. It was a courier with check and release of judgment in hand. I signed the release and took the check to the bank.

Sorry no bus of our own, **CASE CLOSED.**

ANNUAL PICNIC SHORT STAY - 2009

The weekend is set, May 15th & 16th. The units are blocked in the name of SINGLETARY. The numbers to call are 761-8353 or 1-800-447-2178.

There will be a planning meeting in the near future. Watch for it so you can help decide and plan next year's picnic.

JANUARY 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 Happy New Year Home is open 1000-1800hrs	2 Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2300 2000 – Croon -A-Tune	3 Galley is open 1700-2300 2000 – Croon -A-Tune
4 FREE POOL ALL DAY	5 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	6 Lunch is served 1100-1300 WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs	7 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100 1800 - Vietnam Vets	8 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100 1900- Sub Vets Meeting	9 Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2300 2000 – Poweroke	10 0900 - Field Day 1200 –Home Committee Meeting Galley is open 1700-2300 2000 - Poweroke
11 FREE POOL ALL DAY	12 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	13 Lunch is served 1100-1300 WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs 1130am Merry Widows' luncheon at FRA 6:30 – UNIT BOD 7:00 – UNIT General Assembly	14 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100	15 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100 1800– BRANCH BOD 1900- BRANCH General Assembly	16 Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2300 2000 – Croon -A-Tune	17 Galley is open 1700-2300 2000 – Croon -A-Tune
18 FREE POOL ALL DAY	19 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	20 Lunch is served 1100-1300 1130- Unit Luncheon @ Poblamos WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs	21 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100	22 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	23 Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2300 2000 – Poweroke	24 LUAU 1830hrs – Serving of the Pig Galley is open 1700-2300 2000 – Poweroke
25 FREE POOL ALL DAY	26 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	27 Lunch is served 1100-1300 WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs	28 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100	29 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	30 Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2300 2000 – Croon -A-Tune	31 Galley is open 1700-2300 2000 – Croon -A-Tune

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of

CPO Greg Williams, USN-Ret

who transferred to the

Staff of the Supreme Commander

BRANCH & UNIT CHAPLAINS' PEW

Our prayers and best wishes to those who may be in poor health. Anyone knowing of any illness or death among our Shipmates or Auxiliary members please contact **Branch Chaplain Bobbi Sutton @ 875-4010** or **Unit Chaplain Pat Bischoff 764-0927**.

FRA DUES HAVE INCREASED

Effective January 1, 2009 annual dues for the Fleet Reserve Association will be \$30.00 per year.

BRANCH CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIPS

Congratulations!!! This is your anniversary month.

HAVE YOU RENEWED??? PLEASE DO, IF YOU HAVE NOT!!

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| D. B. Lane 52yrs | Larry Starland 8yrs | Robert Block 2yrs |
| Arthur Miller 40 yrs | Ronnie Vandiver 8yrs | Rich Horton 2yrs |
| Theodore Martin 39yrs | Jeffrey Peternel 8yrs | Ronald Redondo 2yrs |
| Karl Humbertson 37yrs | Jerome Ferneding 6yrs | George Williams 2yrs |
| Tom Wunder 37yrs | Jerry Morgan 6yrs | Theodore Nesbitt 2yrs |
| Salvatore Leonti 33yrs | Olin Thomas 6yrs | Mark Fiorey 2yrs |
| Jimmie Allen 32yrs | Rodney Carter 6yrs | Robert Duke 2yrs |
| Murrell Wilson 30yrs | Robert Reilly 6yrs | Mike Donovan 2yrs |
| Nestor Derecho 28yrs | Marion Clark 6yrs | Donald Garrand 1yr |
| Thomas Seymour 27yrs | Michael Markiewich 5yrs | Michael Bullard 1yr |
| Robert Rose 25yrs | Keith Schnebel 5yrs | Ron Minton 1yr |
| Wayne Swiech 24yrs | Jamie Johnson 5yrs | Jack Bullis 1yr |
| David Cornelius 23yrs | Joseph Larose 4yrs | Robet Williams 1yr |
| Alex Gordon 23yrs | Edward Odonoghue 4yrs | John Muse 1yr |
| Robert Stadler 16yrs | Grady Langley 4yrs | Frederick Woodley 1yr |
| Alvin Addington 16yrs | Kenneth Boggs 3yrs | Richard Baker 1yr |
| Danny Mills 14yrs | William Hopta 3yrs | Ryan C. King 1yr |
| Grady Jones 14yrs | Guerry Lloyd 3yrs | Danielle Poole 1yr |
| Bruce Brown 10yrs | Stan Rhorer 3yrs | Val Daschle 1yr |
| Richard Sparger 9yrs | Elmer Avenel 3yrs | Kristopher Knudsen 1yr |
| Joe Travis 9yrs | William Riley 3yrs | Evan Barnard 1yr |
| Paul Reece 9yrs | William Ahner 3yrs | Fred Knight 1yr |
| Carol Fulton 9yrs | Bobby Grassman 2yrs | Edward McLaughlin 1yr |
| Daniel Sease 9yrs | Robert Collins 2yrs | |
| Charles Pyatt 8yrs | Jeff Winans 2yrs | |

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

darlene.hines@comcast.net

BoD Motion – S/M Bolz, seconded by S/M D. Hines made motion to purchase full page ad in Voiture 1067 40/8 program for \$30.00. Voice vote, carried.

Motion – S/M C. Hines seconded by S/M Cox made motion to have S/M Mike Sparks fill the vacancy on the Branch's BoD. Voice vote, carried.

Motion – S/M C. Hines seconded by S/M Tharp made motion the Branch 269 endorse NVP Gary Blackburn for National President. Voice vote, carried.

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking	\$10,960.91
Savings	\$4,479.22
Total	\$15,440.13

HOME FINANCIAL REPORT

OCTOBER '08

NET PROFIT	\$2,027.11
BUILDING FUND	\$19,825.87

FRA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 14th, 0900

The course will be the Redbank Golf Course. Entry Fees are Non-Club Member - \$40; Club Members - \$30; Club Member with cart - \$20.00. The first paid 27 teams get in. Payments are due 10 days prior to tournament. Don't wait!!!! The entry includes green fee, cart, prizes & a prime rib dinner. Additional dinners are available at \$11.00.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New or Reinstated Members	6
Transferred into Low Country Branch 269	1
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander	0
Suspended members	14
Members past due	33
Transferred from Branch 269	1
TOTAL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AS OF 30NOV08	966

WELCOME ABOARD SHIPMATES

New, Reinstated, & Transferred Members

Tim Baker	Robert MacDonald	Glenn Wilkerson
Leon Harris	Curtis Renfro	Ed Young
Ronnie Jones	Angela Waller	

STINGRAY HOCKEY GAME TICKETS

"Pack the House Night" – January 17th

Pack the House Night is Saturday, January 17th. 7:05PM

Game time. Section 136 Lower Bowl Rows E - H.

Free Parking Night with \$2.00 Draft Beer until end of first period. 8oz. cups.

S/M Larry Starland has the tickets, see him Tuesday or Friday night at the Fleet.

YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

If you are a Branch 269 or Unit 269 member, stop by the FRA, Low Country Home **on your birthday** for a **FREE BIRTHDAY LUNCH**. It's your choice from the lunch specials of the day. If your birthday falls on a weekend, stop by Friday or Monday.

Vincent Tamburrino 1/01	James Lewis 1/08	Kimberly Sparkman 1/18
Joy McGuinness 1/01	Ginger Bevis 1/08	Kristopher Knudsen 1/18
Carol Fitzwater 1/01	Thomas Huffcut 1/08	Dennis Rash 1/19
Frank Bohannan 1/01	Steve Koch 1/08	Elizabeth Cosimano 1/19
Lawrence Marsh 1/01	Wade Reid 1/09	Patricia Santos 1/19
Lori Ryan 1/01	Ellen Kaeser 1/09	Perry Friend 1/19
John Schafer 1/02	Paul McFall 1/09	Frank Davis 1/20
Donald Garrand 1/02	Evan Barnard 1/10	Melanie Branham 1/21
Yoshino Catoe 1/03	Thomas Beach 1/10	Arthur Robinson 1/21
Rosemary Clark 1/03	Gary Gardner 1/11	Thomas Scott 1/22
Robert Moore 1/03	Ray Williams 1/11	Faye Pyatt 1/22
Martin Riley 1/03	Bobby Beck 1/12	Gary Theriault 1/22
Nathaniel Mizzell 1/03	William Clark 1/13	Jennifer Buell 1/22
Karen Kopczynski 1/03	Roger Qualls 1/13	William Lindler 1/23
Phyllis Henry 1/04	Girard Coutu 1/13	William Bevis 1/23
Richard Duprey 1/04	Robert Finch 1/13	Edward Stank 1/23
Vicky Blihar 1/04	William Taft 1/13	Antonio Datuin 1/25
Joey Carnley 1/04	Claudia Shenton 1/14	Donald Lozen 1/25
Robert Lambert 1/05	Yoshie Kelly 1/14	Michael Kay 1/25
Billy Fowler 1/05	Karen McDaniel 1/14	Sue Snodgrass 1/25
David Hartkemeyer 1/05	Michael Struve 1/14	Kirk Owen 1/25
Robert Isaman 1/05	Dean Dupont 1/15	George Gruber 1/25
Chris Ludwig 1/05	Clarence Lammers 1/15	Mike Garrett 1/25
Phillip Euper 1/06	Alan Laberge 1/15	Jamie Johnson 1/25
Cori Janney 1/06	Dianna Ogle 1/15	Kenneth Farrell 1/26
Roy Brosseau 1/06	J. T. McNeill 1/15	Dianne Woodward 1/27
Kelley Haselden 1/06	Maria Lewis 1/16	Everett Summers 1/27
Patrick O'Rourke 1/06	Charles Day 1/16	Dennis Marshall 1/27
Doug Cattell 1/06	Jackie Moore 1/17	Sherri Budde 1/27
Robert Stadler 1/07	Val Coggins 1/17	Fred Knight 1/28
Samuel Cosimano 1/07	Dana Roberts 1/17	Robert Shoecraft 1/28
Ben Woellert 1/07	James Lyda 1/18	Willard Burton 1/29
Gerald Farr 1/08	Harry Kirk 1/18	Sandra Millbaugh 1/29
Arlie Cunningham 1/08	Edward Simokat 1/18	Rusty Wenzel 1/30
David Graminski 1/08	Herbert Franklin 1/18	Michael Welch 1/30
Judith Highberger 1/08	Marty Gavin 1/18	Stanley Richards 1/31

FRA, LOW COUNTRY HOME, Inc.

99 Wisteria Road

(843) 569-2692

Home Chairman – John Janney

Laurie Bailey – Vice Chairman

Darlene Hines – Financial Sec.

Bobbi Sutton – Admin Sec.

Larry Starland – Bldg. & Grounds

Linda Cox – Special Events

Rusty Wenzel – Security & Mbr.

Al Addington – Director

Pat Bischoff – Director

John Tharp – Director

Perry Friend - Director

Trustees: Ed Keohane – Jon Sutton – Larry Pepper

Home Manager – Nancy Bullis

Hours of Operations

Mon-Sat 1000-2400 * Sun 1000-2000

Happy Hour – 1600-1900 Mon-Fri

FROM THE HOME COMMITTEE

I sincerely hope all of our Branch and Unit members and their guests had a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. I am happy to report that our Mortgage balance as Dec. is finally less than \$250,000.00, with any luck; hopefully we can have the home paid off in the next 2 to 2 ½ years.

The Home Committee wants to extend a special THANK YOU to S/M Bill Korbish for repairing the TV above the Kitchen door and it was re-installed. Hopefully, we have a different large TV in the Home prior to Super Bowl Sunday, plus we are working on getting another large TV.

We have several special events coming up in January and February; these will be mentioned in the newsletter and on the Bulletin Boards.

Recently some people have been complaining about the volume on the Juke Box. Shipmates, please consider the complete crowd. I understand that not all songs are recorded at the same volume, however, please do not adjust the volume at the Juke Box. That control will only control the volume coming out of the Juke Box itself, not the out laying speakers, of which we have one in each corner of the Home. Please ask the Bartender to adjust the volume, she has the controls and knows how to adjust.

Yours in L/P/S, John Janney

WEEKLY DRAWING at THE HOME

Names drawn lately: 12/2 – James Stover, not signed; 12/9 – Theodore Varney, not signed; 12/16 – Kay Riebe not signed, "special" drawing Pat Bischoff, present; 12/23 – William Pilson, not signed.

You must be a member of the Branch or Unit in good standing and you must be signed in the log. You can sign up until 1800 hours, the day of the drawing. The drawing is held every Tuesday night at 2030 hours.