

FRA, LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269

<http://www.fra269.org>

BRANCH OFFICERS

President – Larry Starland (day)820-8789(eve)863-8474	Vice-President – Larry Cox 553-9025
Treasurer – Laurie Bailey	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	Vice-President – Barbara Addington
Treasurer – Linda Cox 553-9025	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

The Berkeley County Veterans Memorial is just about complete. The bricks are all in place, the flag pole is up, and dedicated lights have been installed. This Monument is dedicated to those who have served honorably in the United States armed services. Not just Berkeley County veterans. Membership in the council, the governing body, is any individual that is a member in good standing of any veterans organization located in Berkeley County. That means you. The dedication of the Memorial is scheduled for the 4th of July, 2009. There is still some work to be accomplished. Landscaping, planting of a few palmetto trees, and the addition of two more flag poles. To accomplish this, a fund raiser is scheduled for the 25th of April, 2009 at the Moncks Corner VFW. A Hog Roast, with Boston Butts, and all the fixings is planned. Cost per meal, \$6.00. A few of our members have purchased bricks. It's not too late, order forms are on the bulletin board at the Home. Although the bricks are all in place, they have access to a portable engraver for bricks purchased in the future. Pictures are in the lobby at the Home.

Elections are in May. April starts the first round of nominations. Along with the elected officers, 13 Board of Directors are authorized based on our membership totals as of 31 March 2009. If you would like a more vocal voice is the direction the Branch is going in. Run for office or the BOD. Attendance and participation is very important to any organization, and should be given careful thought before running for any office or position. To understand better how "your" organization is run, review our By-Laws. If you do not have a copy, they are posted on our web site at www.fra269.org. If you do not have access to the internet, contact me and I will get you a copy.

Naval History for April. 02/04/1827. First naval hospital construction begun at Portsmouth, VA. 06/04/1909. Commander Robert E. Perry reports reaching the North Pole. 07/04/1979. Launching of first Trident submarine, USS Ohio (SSBN-726) at Groton, CT. 09/04/1941. Commissioning of USS North Carolina, which carried 9 16-inch guns. 13/04/1861. Fort Sumter surrenders to Confederate forces. 15/04/1961. Launching of first nuclear-powered frigate, USS Bainbridge, at Quincy, MA. 19/04/1783. George Washington proclaims end of hostilities. 22/04/1898. U.S. warships begin blockade of Cuba. 26/04/1952. USS Hobson sinks after colliding with USS Wasp; 176 lives lost. 30/04/1975. Saigon falls to North Vietnamese forces.

Don't forget about the Annual Short Stay Picnic. Plenty is planned for both the 15th and 16th of May. Fish Fry Friday, Burgers and things Saturday at noon and Bar-B-Que starting at 1800 hours. White Elephant sale and a special raffle will be going on.

Friday and Saturday night pool tournaments are on-going and now there is Trivia at the home. Come out and see if you can beat UCONN alias Cookie.

See you at the Fleet. Di-Da-Di-Da-Dit.

In L/P/S Larry M. Starland

AMERICANISM/PATRIOTISM REPORT

Regional Br. 269 Essay Winners

SECOND PLACE 10th GRADE

Trinh Chu, Fort Dorchester High

THIRD PLACE 7th GRADE

Sabrina Warner, Gregg Middle

Local Military Retirees Eligible for More Benefits

North Charleston, SC – Naval Health Clinic Charleston (NHCC), formerly Naval Hospital Charleston, has opened enrollment to local military retirees and family members. NHCC has recently expanded services and is now able to provide primary care to retirees no older than 63 years.

In addition, NHCC is now participating in the Retiree At-Cost Hearing Aid Program (RACHAP). RACHAP makes hearing aids available at significantly reduced costs to retired military service members. The program is available for those who are under 65 years old and enrolled to a primary care manager at NHCC or to the 437th Medical Group at the Charleston Air Force Base. Those receiving 10% (or more) disability from the Veteran's Administration are NOT eligible for hearing aids through RACHAP. Anyone interested in obtaining a hearing aid through RACHAP should call the Naval Health Clinic directly at 843- 743-3709.

Those wishing to change their primary care enrollment to NHCC should call 1-800-444-5445 or visit the TRICARE Service Center at the Naval Health Clinic on Rivers Avenue.

For more information on the services available at Naval Health Clinic Charleston, go to www.nhchasn.med.navy.mil.

Merry Widows Support Group

The Merry Widows will meet at the FRA Home on Tuesday April 14th.

Crazy Easter Hat Contest. Invite a friend and let's have some fun. A prize for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Don't forget the book exchange and door prize. We had a good crowd and good food for the tea room trip last month.

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

MADAM PREZ'S TIDBIT

Here it is, already, Spring has sprung and we can hopefully forget the Winter "blahs". We have several things to look forward to, including Mother's Day Brunch on the 10th of May. Western Night on April 18th and Member appreciation day on April 26th. The member appreciation will be a covered dish affair with the Home providing the meat. Dust off your best recipe and bring a side dish or dessert.

Spring also brings our Unit elections. Nominations will be taken at the April meeting with elections in May. If you are interested in running for office, please make your wishes known. It is a rewarding (did I say rewarding) experience and I urge you to consider running.

The ladies luncheon will be at the C & W cafeteria on April 21st. We meet at 11:30 a.m. The General Assembly meeting will be on April 14th to accommodate the Branch's meeting on the 16th.

Our Unit suffered a great loss this past Wednesday (18th) when our sister member, Annmarie Bolz, was called to the staff of the supreme commander. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Fred and his girls. She will be sorely missed. The auicillary conducted the ritual of bereavement at the funeral chapel and I want to thank each of the Unit members who participated.

My sincere condolences to any of you who have suffered a loss, congratulations to those of you who are celebrating a happy occasion and if you are suffering from this bug that is going around, get well soon.

In Loyalty, Protection and Service, Rusty

UNIT CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIPS

Frances Bledsoe 23yrs	Margaret Campbell 7yrs	Genevieve Sumner 2yrs
Nancy Sandeder 19yrs	Josephine Rogers 6yrs	Elizabeth Crisantu 2yrs
Linda Harris 18yrs	Kathleen MacTier 5yrs	Thomas Starland 1yr
Barbara Moore 10yrs	Dolores Robinson 5yrs	Louise Wells 1yr
Karen Keohane 10yrs	Erin Giannetto 5yrs	Linda Summey 1yr
Cynthia Clark 9yrs	Gail Becker 2yrs	Lisa Berezny 1yr
Carol Fitzwater 8yrs	Minnie Sharp 2yrs	Michael Berezny 1yr
Pat Suckow 7yrs	Karen McDaniel 2yrs	
Jennifer Buell 7yrs	Dianna Ogle 2yrs	

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.

Bruce Barclay 4/01	Claire Booth 4/09	Phillip Nunnally 4/20
Dianne Carroll 4/01	Hans Vlam 4/09	Randy Reed 4/21
Linda Jones 4/01	Deborah Smith 4/10	Ken Ealy 4/21
Arthur Raymond 4/01	Franks Potts 4/10	Shelly Kelly 4/21
Larry Morris 4/01	Johnny Pearce 4/11	Laurie Marshall 4/21
Jon Reno 4/01	Richard Sparger 4/11	Mary Anna Chinnners 4/22
Jared Moran 4/02	Edward Mulrey 4/11	Anna Moulden 4/23
Maureen Williams 4/02	Leonard Pinson 4/11	Michael Roth 4/23
Mack Bone 4/02	Joseph McMarigal 4/11	Bruce Biamont 4/24
Robert Posey 4/02	Theodore Martin 4/12	Robert Block 4/24
Joseph Schaffer 4/03	Dennis Darling 4/13	Drew Bradstreet 4/24
Kevin Founds 4/03	Sammie Johnson 4/13	Elsie Sexton 4/25
Linda Zaunder 4/03	Virginia Pidde 4/14	Richard Thompson 4/25
Charles Ivey 4/04	Nancy Parker 4/14	William Peterson 4/25
Larry Pepper 4/04	Darlene Ouellette 4/14	Gregory Berry 4/25
Jimmy Sauls 4/04	Lisa Berezny 4/14	Patricia Scott 4/26
Herbert Watson 4/04	Doug Cattell, Jr 4/14	Belinda Clark 4/26
Paul Bayusik 4/04	William Reed 4/15	Emily Payne 4/27
Toby Hunter 4/04	Frank Dejoy 4/15	Ray Montminy 4/27
Lillian Kurtz 4/05	Hazel Hacker 4/16	Richard Jones 4/27
Dana Ingram 4/05	Dale Schumann 4/16	James Mastin 4/27
Richard Brown 4/05	James Dewitt 4/16	Jay Duncan 4/27
Mary Horton 4/05	Santo Urena 4/16	Marc Jacob 4/27
Janet Moore 4/06	Tim Herold 4/16	Marilyn Tharp 4/28
Jerry Hawkins 4/06	Edward Westlake 4/17	Joseph Brace 4/28
Joe Giannetto 4/06	Gordon Stevenson 4/17	Ronald Pollock 4/28
James Lund 4/06	Robert Williams 4/17	Wesley Orr 4/29
Steve Sigmon 4/07	John Priest 4/18	Toni Stephens 4/29
Donnie Robinson 4/07	Ronald Redondo 4/18	William Martin 4/29
Josephine Rogers 4/08	Steve Naert 4/18	Lamarr Gable 4/29
Donald Detwiler 4/08	Terry Sahlbom 4/18	Frank Rosenstine 4/29
Tracy Turner 4/08	Paul Bradstreet 4/19	Kathy Bourgeois 4/30
Timothy Weeden 4/08	Carlo Stevens 4/19	
John Steele 4/09	Paul Mash 4/20	

APRIL 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100 1800 - Vietnam Vets	2 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	3 Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 – Poweroke	4 Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 – Poweroke
5 FREE POOL ALL DAY	6 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	7 Lunch is served 1100-1300 WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs	8 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100	9 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100 1900- Sub Vets Meeting	10 Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2200	11 0900 - Field Day 1200 –Home Committee Meeting Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 – Perdue DJ
12 FREE POOL ALL DAY	13 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	14 Lunch is served 1100-1300 1130am Merry Widows' luncheon at FRA 6:30 – UNIT BOD 7:00 – UNIT General Assembly WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hr	15 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100	16 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100 1800– BRANCH BOD 1900- BRANCH General Assembly	17 Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 – Poweroke	18 Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 – Poweroke Western Night
19 FREE POOL ALL DAY	20 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	21 Lunch is served 1100-1300 1130- Unit Luncheon @ C & W cafeteria WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs	22 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100	23 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	24 Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2200	25 Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 – TBA
26 1600- Members' Appreciation Dinner FREE POOL ALL DAY	27 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	28 Lunch is served 1100-1300 WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs	29 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100	30 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100		

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
 April 18th – Country Western Nite
 April 26th – Members' Appreciation Dinner, 1600hrs
 May 10th – Mother's Day Brunch
 June 6th – Golf tournament
 June 13th – Installation of Officers
 June 21st – Father's Day

Subject to change and additions.

BRANCH CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIPS

Congratulations!!! This is your anniversary month.

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

Robert Stancik 47yrs	Peter Pugliese 11yrs	Paul McFall 5yrs
Robert McNeish 45yrs	Patricia Whitely 10yrs	Thomas Brown 5yrs
Jack Stevenson 45yrs	Michael Dellenbach 10yrs	Terry Gilmore 4yrs
Elwin Wolfe 44yrs	Jack Wrbanich 10yrs	Dewitt Morgan 3yrs
William Peterson 34yrs	Richard Moore 10yrs	Gerald Ott 3yrs
Wesley Orr 34yrs	James Mastin 10yrs	Susan Marsh 3yrs
Richard Koehler 29yrs	Cecil Skipworth 10yrs	William Ludwig 3yrs
Thomas Seay 27yrs	Rick Jones 10yrs	Daryl Thomas 3yrs
Eugene Lemieux 25yrs	Richard Bishop 10yrs	Paul Llewellyn 2yrs
Carl Hancock 25yrs	H. Ed Roche 10yrs	Kevin Kelly 2yrs
Charles Gravley 24yrs	Steve Obermann 10yrs	Michael Shanahan 2yrs
James Willcutt 23yrs	Phill Smith 9yrs	Bobby Lowe 2yrs
Gary Crozier 22yrs	Al Meadows 9yrs	Richard Wise 2yrs
William Freligh 20yrs	James Delaney 9yrs	Jimmy Legg 2yrs
Bob Karth 19yrs	Edward Fretschel 9yrs	Larry Henderson 2yrs
Gerald Farr 19yrs	Gary Sorenson 9yrs	Edward Bowles 2yrs
Walter Scott 16yrs	John Aragay 9yrs	Edward Rourk 2yrs
Gerald Monnat 16yrs	Robert Blihar 9yrs	Benhamin Larvie 2yrs
Wayne Chandler 13yrs	David Hartkemeyer 8yrs	Fredrick Daughtery 2yrs
Fredrick Bolz 13yrs	Chris Moulton 8yrs	James Litzinger 2yrs
Michael Boussey 12yrs	Marty Gavin 8yrs	George Dale 2yrs
Jackie Dayton 12yrs	Fred Cox 8yrs	Larry Sharp 2yrs
Charlie Calas 11yrs	Michael Welch 8yrs	Kevin Sears 1yr
Lynnette Jordan 11yrs	Lawrence Becker 8yrs	Bill McQuaid 1yr
Thomas Jordan 11yrs	John Keile 8yrs	Dean Christiansen 1yr
David Graminski 11yrs	Larry Cox 7yrs	Roy Brosseau 1yr
Edward Smith 11yrs	Robert Olsen 7yrs	Ray Williams 1yr
Robert Clements 11yrs	Herbert Watson 6yrs	Robert Fowler 1yr
Harold Crawford 11yrs	David Horton 6yrs	Bruce Biamont 1yr
Donald Propst 11yrs	John Robinson 5yrs	Robert Cragg 1yr

WESTERN NIGHT

Saturday, April 18th. Be prepared!!!! The Sheriff will be making arrests. Be prepared to pay the bail bondsmen.

Break out the boots and cowboy hats. See ya at The Home, Pardner!!

Adopt-A-Highway Schedule

Muster at the Home by 0900 hours and let's do what we said we would. Pick-up trash along NAD Road.

Adopt-A-Highway pick-up schedule for 2009:

May 16 – this may change due to Short Stay
October 10
December 5

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of

Annmarie Bolz, March 18, 2009

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**.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

darlene.hines@comcast.net

Motion – S/M C. Hines seconded by S/M Lookabill made motion to remove the words “Guests will not be allowed to make cash purchases in the Home” from number four of the Code of Conduct. Voice vote, carried.

Motion - S/M Addington seconded by S/M C. Hines made motion that the Branch endorses James Scarbro for FRA National Vice President. Voice vote, carried.

FRA & LAFRA SCHOLARSHIPS

DEADLINE: APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 15 APRIL

Go to www.fra.org, click on “About FRA” then click on “Scholarships”.

All the information is there and applications can be downloaded.

There are a number of scholarships available to children and grandchildren of the FRA and LAFRA. Check out the website.

Don't do computers; first ask your child or grandchild, they most likely do. If not, call 1-800-FRA-1924 to have the information sent to you.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New or Reinstated Members	8
Transferred into Low Country Branch 269	0
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander	0
Suspended members	13
Members past due	27
Transferred from Branch 269	0
TOTAL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AS OF 28FEB09	969

WELCOME ABOARD SHIPMATES

New, Reinstated, & Transferred Members

Jennifer Beilstein	John Logan	Norman Wicke
Gregory Berry	James Pickett	Jerry Williams
Phillip Kirkland	William Seheer	

MEMBERS' APPRECIATION DINNER

April 26th 1600hrs (4pm)

Members for invited to attend an appreciation dinner. The main course will be waiting for you. Members are asked to bring their favorite side dish or a dessert.

Come out and enjoy.

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. As of Wed, March 17th there was 1 3 Bedroom unit not reserved, there was also one that the deposit had not been paid.

The menu for the weekend is:

Friday: 1800 – 1930: Fish, Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans

Saturday: 1200 – 1330: Hamburger, Hot Dogs, Potato Salad, Chips

Saturday: 1800 – 1930: Pork Bar-B-Que, Rice, Hash, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans

Your favorite side dishes and desserts are welcome for any of the above meals.

Wrist bands will be given free for members and immediate family. Guests will be \$5.00. Membership will be checked using the latest roster received. There will be a White Elephant sale.

All donations for the sale is welcome.

ALL VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THIS ENDEAVOR WILL BE WELCOMED.

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking	\$10,712.67
Savings	\$4,486.08
Total	\$15,198.75

HOME FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY '09

NET PROFIT	-\$7,777.00
BUILDING FUND	\$19,855.60
MORTGAGE BALANCE	\$232,814.16

Insurance, liquor, beer & wine licenses and property taxes were paid during the month of January from funds in our savings "escrow" account.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON GOLF LEAGUE

Jerry Young here. I run the FRA Thursday Afternoon Golf League (9 Holes) at Redbank Plantation. I plan to start league play on March 26th; could you pass my Name, Telephone Number; 218-6981, and email address; jerry.d.young.ctr@navy.mil along in your monthly newsletter to see if anybody is interested in forming a two person team and playing this year.

FRA, LOW COUNTRY HOME, Inc.

99 Wisteria Road

(843) 569-2692

Home Chairman – John Janney

Laurie Bailey – Vice Chairman

Bobbi Sutton – Admin Sec.

Linda Cox – Special Events

Al Addington – Director

John Tharp – Director

Darlene Hines – Financial Sec.

Larry Starland – Bldg. & Grounds

Rusty Wenzel – Security & Mbr.

Pat Bischoff – 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

April's field day and Home Committee Meeting will be Saturday April 11th

It appears several Shipmates and Ladies are enjoying the BUZZTIME TRIVIA game. Keep in mind we need to be courteous and considerate to each other when asking for the TV channels to be changed. The TVs are being upgraded as we can.

The daily door prize is catching on. Be sure to enter each time you come in. Everyone is reminded about the Western Night on April 18th and the "MEMBER APPRECIATION DINNER" on the 26th. The extra phone line mentioned last month will not be installed due to cost effectiveness.

Yours in L/P/S, John Janney

WEEKLY DRAWING at THE HOME

Names drawn lately: 3/3 – Billy Coffey, not signed; 3/10 – Elizabeth Peterson, not signed; 3/17 – Mark Fiorey, not signed; 3/24 – Bruce York, 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.

DAILY DRAWING

Got your key card??? Enter the daily drawing each day you visit the Fleet and you could be the winner of the door prize. Make your deposit then log your name and key card number (the five digit number on your key card) in the log book. There's a drawing each morning looking for a winner.