

FRA, LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269

<http://www.fra269.org>

BRANCH OFFICERS

President – Larry Starland (day)729-0423(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	Mark Hunter	Dave Rein
Perry Friend	John Janney	Mike Sparks
David Guarino	Chris LaForce	Bobbi Sutton
Luke Hayes	Nate Nathan	John Tharp
Chuck Hines	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 – Chuck Hines	Youth Activities – John Tharp
By-Laws & Budget – Chuck Hines	Audit – John Janney & Luke Hayes
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 – Karen Adams 553-9121
Treasurer – Linda Cox 553-9025	Secretary – Karen Adams 553-9121
Jr. Past President – Pat Suckow	

UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat Bischoff	Gail Nathan	Pat Suckow
Erin Giannetto	Joey Phillip	Nancy Vella
Joann Ludwig	Mandie Stone	

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMEN

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

BRANCH PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's that special Season again. Christmas will be here soon. Our Toys for Tots program is in progress. We have the drop off box at the home and our Angle Tree is up and being decorated by your donations. With the economy as bad as it is, many more children will be in need this year. So please give as generous as you can. Instead of "one for the road", how about "one for the Angle Tree." Toys and donations need to be in by the 16th of December.

2010 is upon us. I would like to make the up coming year, "Year of the Volunteer". We always need volunteers to help out on the many activities we participate in. Adopt-A-Highway, Field Day at the Home, Parades, Car Washes, Food Basket deliveries, Welcoming HONOR Flight Veterans back to Charleston, etc...etc. We have 1000 members. We can only do what we have volunteers willing to do. I am not asking you to volunteer for every activity we get involved in, but one or two a year. It's frustrating to have only 4 volunteers of the Branch at a Two Bell Ceremony for a member's funeral. We only had 4 members riding the Veteran's Day Parade float, with two members in the WW II Veterans car and 2 members in the Vietnam Veterans car. Thank You to the volunteers that always give of their time. But we need more support, YOUR support.

For those of you not at the November General Assembly meeting, Branch 269 received several award from the National Convention. Of the four awards possible in group 1, your branch won 3rd place in Youth Activities, 2nd place in Americanism/Patriotism, and 1st places in Hospital/Welfare/Rehab, and Public Relations. Well done and a Bravo Zulu to our committee chairmen.

Naval History December. 12/3/1775. LT John Paul Jones raises the Grand Union flag on Alfred, first American flag raised over American naval vessel. 12/5/1843. Launching of USS Michigan at Erie, Penn., America's first iron-hulled warship, as well as first prefabricated ship. 12/9/1941. USS Swordfish (SS-193) makes initial U.S. submarine attack on Japanese ship. 12/11/1941. Wake Island Garrison under Commander Winfield Cunningham repulses Japanese invasion force. 12/18/1965. River Patrol Force established in Vietnam. 12/28/1982. Recommissioning of USS New Jersey (BB-62), the first of four Iowa-class battleships that were returned to service in 1980s.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members and your family.

DiDaDiDaDit.

In L/P/S Larry M. Starland

TOYS FOR TOTS

Drop off an unwrapped toy at the Fleet. Deadline to drop off is December 16th.

BUY AN ORNAMENT, HELP A CHILD

The Christmas tree in the bar area will only have lights on it until ornaments are purchased by donation. That's right you can make a donation, any amount will do, and help fill our Christmas tree. Please make your donation by December 16th. OK, the ornaments are only paper but you get to write your name on it.

The donations will be forwarded to Toys for Tots.

UNIT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The ladies lunch group will have their Christmas luncheon on the 15th of December at 11:30 at the Fleet Reserve Home. If you would like to take part in the gift exchange please bring a gift not to exceed \$10.00.

KID'S CHRISTMAS SOCIAL- Dec. 19th

The children and grandchildren of Branch and Unit members are invited for some punch and cookies on December 19th from 1:00-3:00. Santa will be stopping by and they'll have a chance to sit on his lap and receive a small treat.

This is for those who still believe! We do need a head count. There's a sign-up sheet on the Branch's bulletin board. Also you can call Darlene Hines at 824-2589 or Bobbi Sutton at 875-4010 and give them the name of the child that will be attending.

Deadline for providing names is December 13th.

BRANCH and UNIT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 19th will be the Christmas Party. Meal tickets are **\$5.00** each and the deadline to purchase them is December 13th. Come out and enjoy the evening. Dinner will be served 1830-2000hrs. Tickets are available at The Home.

Christmas Ornament Exchange

Let's do it again! Bring a wrapped Christmas ornament the night of the Branch and Unit Christmas Party. Starting at 2000 hours, we'll have an ornament exchange. Please bring ornaments of at least \$5.00 value.

MADAM PREZ'S TIDBIT

I'm making a grocery list in preparation for a shopping trip for Thanksgiving dinner. I am fortunate to be having my children join me for the occasion and I am hoping that you are blessed with your family also. I have run out of ideas, so I'll just do my corner.

The Unit will at be going to the VA hospital to bring a little Christmas to the patients in the VA nursing home on Sunday the 6th of December. We will meet at the Home at 1:00 and go from there.

The ladies lunch group will have their Christmas luncheon on the 15th of December at 11:30 at the Fleet Reserve Home. If you would like to take part in the gift exchange please bring a gift not to exceed \$10.00.

The children's Christmas party will be on the 19th of December. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter. Also on the 19th is the annual Branch and Unit's Christmas party. There will be an ornament exchange and if you would like to take part the cost of the ornament should be in the neighborhood of \$5.00. Dinner will start at 6:30.

As long as I am plugging all of the festivities let me remind you of the New Year's Eve party. Get your tickets now 'because it is shaping p to be quite the event.

I would like to bring to your attention a scam that is of very dangerous nature. The caller purports to be from the VA and wants your social security number. **DO NOT GIVE IT TO THEM!** The VA does not call people for such a number. If you answer, you might be sitting yourself up for a case of identity theft.

I hope that you have a happy time if you are celebrating a milestone of some sort. If you are ill or just under the weather, please feel better soon. My sincerest condolences if you have suffered a loss.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service,
Rusty

UNIT CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIPS

Maureen Williams 10yrs
Ira Monnig 3yrs
Richard Mackall 3yrs
Jonathan Jones 3yrs

Norma Houck 3yrs
John Houck 3yrs
Larry Brodie 3yrs
Toni Pineault 3yr

Lora Pilcher 2yrs
Elizabeth Brigham 2yrs
Tracie Rabon 2yrs

ELVIS IS ON HIS WAY

February 2010

Watch for details and ticket sells.

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.

Mel Wright 12/01	Donald Krupczyk 12/12	James Doman 12/21
Melvin Baker 12/02	Grady Jones 12/12	Chris Schramm 12/21
Samuel Wright 12/02	Carl Chinn 12/12	Marvin Meistrell 12/22
Richard Schommer 12/02	Jack Bullis 12/12	Robert Yancey 12/22
Francis Evans 12/02	Sidney Byrd 12/12	James Willcutt 12/22
Sam Rayburn 12/02	David Cornelius 12/13	Wendall Calloway 12/23
C C O'Donnell 12/02	William Bailey 12/13	Robert MacDonald 12/23
Gary Semler 12/02	David Horton 12/13	Margaret Bennett 12/23
Brian Botzenhart 12/02	Robert Call 12/13	Ed O'Donnoghue 12/24
Maurice Teague 12/03	Alex Herbruck 12/14	Dana Kaeser 12/24
Jeffrey Parrish 12/04	Susan Pardo 12/14	Edward Young 12/24
Regina Bowden 12/04	Brenda Hiers 12/14	Michelle Lemon 12/24
Steven Geary 12/04	Phyllis Thomas-Kramer 12/15	William Hayes 12/25
Robert Melton 12/04	Grady Langley 12/15	Robert Hudspeth 12/25
Thomas Martin 12/05	Pat Suckow 12/15	Karin Westcoat 12/25
Jack Stiegelmeier 12/05	David Tubbs 12/15	Lawrence Becker 12/25
John Groover 12/05	Naomi Fortner 12/15	Carol Murphy 12/26
William Pilson 12/05	William Meyerhoff 12/15	Mike Donovan 12/26
Bryant Armstead 12/05	Tina Bohannon 12/16	Barry Stitely 12/26
James Bolyn 12/06	Dorothy Nephew 12/16	Karl Humbertson 12/26
Leroy Werley 12/06	Ida Rosen 12/16	Walter Zeigler 12/27
Robert Harris 12/06	Dolores Robinson 12/17	Joel Chue 12/27
James Fackler 12/06	Rosamond Milligan 12/18	Al Meadows 12/27
William Anderson 12/06	Karen Keohane 12/18	James Rogers 12/27
Floyd Bandy 12/06	Sandra Ecklund 12/19	Rick Collins 12/27
William Hardy 12/06	Richard Donahue 12/19	Joseph Gleason 12/28
Boyce Williams 12/07	Elfriede Campbell 12/19	Tim Baker 12/28
Glen Wilkerson 12/07	Robert Bradshaw 12/19	Joeylyne Phillips 12/28
Gary Samples 12/07	Robert Sowards 12/19	Anita Wright 12/29
Edward Keohane 12/09	Ronnie Vandiver 12/20	Theresa Gavin 12/30
William Russell 12/09	Robert Bailey 12/20	Keith Schnebel 12/30
Robert Pulos 12/10	Terry Sprague 12/20	Kim Hamilton 12/31
Nestor Derecho 12/10	Frederick Woodley 12/20	James Dennis 12/31
Christopher Davis 12/10	Richia Beaufort 12/20	David Guarino 12/31
Mark Szlachetka 12/10	Sara Collins 12/21	Elbert Worthy 12/31
Joseph Fitzwater 12/11	Emmett Rckley 12/21	
Patty Russell 12/11	Merrell Peterson 12/21	

DECEMBER 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 Lunch is served 1100-1300 WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs	2 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100	3 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100 1930 - Marine Corp League Meeting	4 Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 - Poweroke	5 Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 - Poweroke
6 1000hrs to 2000hrs FREE POOL	7 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	8 Lunch is served 1100-1300 1130 - Merry Widows luncheon WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs	9 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100	10 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100 1900- Sub Vets Meeting	11 Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 - Poweroke	12 0900 - Field Day 1200 - Home Committee Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 - Poweroke
13 1000hrs to 2000hrs FREE POOL	14 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	15 Lunch is served 1100-1300 11:30 Unit Xmas Lunch @ FRA, Home 6:30 - UNIT BOD 7:00 - UNIT General Assembly WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hr	16 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100	17 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100 1800- BRANCH BOD 1900- BRANCH General Assembly	18 Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 - Poweroke	19 1300-1500hrs Kid's Social with Santa 1900-2000hrs Br. & Unit Xmas Dinner Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 - Poweroke
20 1000hrs to 2000hrs FREE POOL	21 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	22 Lunch is served 1100-1300 WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hr	23 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100	24 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100 Home will close at 1800hrs	25 Merry Christmas Home Is Closed	26 Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 - Poweroke
27 1000hrs to 2000hrs FREE POOL	28 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	29 Lunch is served 1100-1300 WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs	30 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Pizza Night Galley is open 1700-2100	31 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Home will close at 1700hrs New Years Eve Party 1900hrs	Jan 1 Happy New Year Home is open 1000-1800hrs	Jan 2 Galley is open 1700-2200 2000 - Poweroke

NEW YEAR EVE PARTY

This year you will be entertained by The Spastics. For 47+ years The Spastics have been entertaining.

Tickets \$25.00 per person, \$30.00 after Dec. 25th. Cash bar, Party Favors, Hors d'oeuvres, Champagne at Midnight, Breakfast at 0100hrs. Doors open at 1900hrs (7:00pm).

Seating chart will be used, so buy early and get a good seat. Tickets will go on sell November 7th. See your Bartender for tickets.

SUPER BOWL- February 7th

Super Bowl Sunday is February 7th. 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.

BRANCH CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIPS

Congratulations!!! This is your anniversary month.

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

Stacy Power 54yrs	David Keeler 10yrs	Drew Bradstreet 4yrs
Roger Qualls 47yrs	Lorenz Rathke 10yrs	Edgar Gibson 4yrs
William Neff 38yrs	Kenneth Gray 10yrs	Charles Porter 4yrs
Cecil Rash 37yrs	Dennis Keane 10yrs	Joseph Schmitt 3yrs
Alexander Martin 34yrs	Robert Lopez 10yrs	Jon Simmons 3yrs
Gary Semler 30yrs	Mark Chapman 10yrs	Conrad Shaw 3yrs
Dustin Darnell 29yrs	James Dennis 10yrs	Mark Szlachetka 3yrs
Timothy Weeden 22yrs	Larry Nicodin 10yrs	Dana Kaeser 3yrs
Thomas Beach 21yrs	Anderson Cox 10yrs	Christopher Eldridge 3yrs
Chuck Hines 21yrs	William Pruitt 9yrs	Benjiman Harman 3yrs
William Lindler 18yrs	Marc Jacob 9yrs	Jack Stroman 2yrs
Conrado Celestial 18yrs	William Mullins 9yrs	Kevin Founds 2yrs
Jerome Schaffer 17yrs	Rowland Singletary 9yrs	Terry Sahlbom 2yrs
Tim Cowan 17yrs	David Markyvech 9yrs	Laurie Ipar-Marshall 1yr
Ralph Mummey 17yrs	Mark Grider 8yrs	Daniel Muir 1yr
Gordon Stevenson 17yrs	Perry Friend 6yrs	John Houston 1yr
John Steele 17yrs	Gavin Karelitz 6yrs	Keith Miller 1yr
Weldon Jones 16yrs	Carol Murphy 6yrs	John Rush 1yr
John Schafer 14yrs	Denise Barnes 6yrs	Don Knapp 1yr
Leonard Chilton 12yrs	Kim Phelps 5yrs	Dennis Marshall 1yr
Jerry Walton 11yrs	Sammie Johnson 4yrs	Michelle Lemon 1yr

*Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of
George Wells, Jr, TMC, 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**.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

darlene.hines@comcast.net

BOD Motion - S/M D. Hines seconded by S/M C. Hines made motion to allocate \$10.00 to enter Moncks Corner's Christmas parade. Voice vote, carried.

BOD Motion - S/M D. Hines seconded by S/M B. Sutton made motion to allocate \$150.00 for Kids Christmas Social. Voice vote, carried.

Motion - S/M C. Hines seconded by S/M Hayes made motion to allocate \$300.00 for the Branch and Unit Christmas party. Voice vote, carried. Meal tickets will be \$5.00

Motion - S/M C. Hines seconded by S/M Bolz made motion to allocate \$200.00 to purchase toys for Toys for Tots. Voice vote, carried.

Motion - S/M C. Hines seconded by S/M Hayes made motion that the Branch purchases four FRA recruitment table top recruitment posters at the cost of \$232.00 plus shipping. Voice vote, 1 nay, carried.

WEEKLY DRAWING at THE HOME

Names drawn lately: 10/27 – Tom Morrison, signed, not present; 11/3 – Ray Stanfield, not signed; 11/10 – Brennen Llewellyn, not signed; 11/17 – Brandon Pruet, 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.

HOME FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER '09

NET PROFIT	\$1,435.10
BUILDING FUND	\$21,017.43
MORTGAGE BALANCE	\$184,805.54

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New or Reinstated Members	20
Transferred into Low Country Branch 269	0
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander	1
Suspended members	11
Members past due	28
Transferred from Branch 269	0
TOTAL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AS OF 31OCT09	1000

WELCOME ABOARD SHIPMATES

New, Reinstated, & Transferred Members

David Bell	Valerie Kohr	Max Tremblay
Matthew Bender	Ivan Lewis	Gene Verch
Ricky Collins	Richard Mahlie	Edward Vettel
Roger Gibson	James Nelson	Daniel Wall
Kim Hamilton	Phillip Obie	Darryl Watson
Michael Jensen	Joseph Shea	Brice York
Robert Jett	James Strohm	

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking	\$13,222.51
Savings	\$4,499.03
Total	\$17,721.54

Merry Widows Support Group

The Merry Widows support group will meet at the FRA Home on December 8th at 11:30am. Christmas buffet lunch, book exchange, door prize, and game. Also bring a toy for Toys for Tots. This is our Christmas project. Merry Christmas

Yours in Loyalty, Protection, & Service,
Betty Harris - 552-1416 or C# 412-6753
e-mail: jewelbettyh09@hotmail.com

FRA, LOW COUNTRY HOME, Inc.

99 Wisteria Road

(843) 569-2692

Home Chairman – Nate Nathan

Laurie Bailey – Vice Chairman	Darlene Hines – Financial Sec.
Bobbi Sutton – Admin Sec.	Larry Starland – Bldg. & Grounds
Linda Cox – Special Events	Chuck Hines – Security & Mbr.
Karen Adams – Director	John Tharp – Director
Erin Giannetto – Director	Rusty Wenzel - Director

Trustees: Jon Sutton – Larry Pepper – Fred Bolz
Home Manager – Keith Suiter, Jr.

Hours of Operations

Mon-Sat 1000-2400 * Sun 1000-2000

Happy Hour – 1600-1900 Mon-Fri

FROM THE HOME COMMITTEE

Hello again all FRA and Unit members. Hope y'all had a great November and your Thanksgiving was a huge success. The month of December looks like it'll be quite busy and productive for all hands. We're fast coming to the end of a year that has not been that enjoyable for many folks in this great country of ours.

If you hadn't noticed, the Angel Tree is up in the Home and we have a drop off Box for the Toys for Tots Program set up by the US Marine Corps Reserves. The deadline date for the program is December 17th, so let's fill up the box. The FRA Branch and Unit Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 19th. We will have our annual New Year's Eve Party on the 31st of December. Entertainment will be brought to you by the Spastics. If you've never heard this group before, well then my friend, you're in for quite the treat. The Home will be open on New Year's Day. So come on in and enjoy socializing with some slightly hung over Shipmates.

OK, now for a couple of ADMIN items here: Do not let others use your Key Card for entry into the Home! It's against the rules folks. It's against the rules... Recently a guest was observed by a member, pouring a drink from underneath the table. That's against the LAW, our RULES and just plain common DECENCY! We have the lowest prices for drinks anywhere!!! **No Food or Drinks Allowed.** It ain't rocket science folks. Please, don't allow someone to take advantage of our Home like that. There's no excuse. Now, for those of us that utilize the Buzz Time Trivia game, we are going to change the rules just a little. Due to the expense of this game, and hoping to keep it around, the Home Committee has decided to charge a dollar for the game keypad. So if you check out a keypad for Buzz Time at say 1700 (5:00PM) for you Air Force types and do not turn it in until you leave, then you are out a whole dollar American. However, if you turn it in and then decide you want to play again, you pay again...capish?

Well, I guess that's about everything that needed covering and oh yeah...have yourselves a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Until next month,
Yours in LPS, Nate

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

Dec 12th – Field Day & Home Committee meeting

Dec 19th – Kids social with Santa

Dec 19th – Branch & Unit Christmas Party

Dec 31st – New Year Eve party

Feb 7th – Super Bowl Party: Tickets on sale at the bar.

Feb (?) – Valentines Day – Need input. Use the suggestion box to help us plan what you want to do.

Feb (?) – Elvis show. Details are in the planning stage.

Subject to change and additions.

ANNUAL PICNIC SHORT STAY - 2010

There's only 1, two bedrooms unit left

The way to make reservations has changed. MWR Short Stay is now requiring a deposit for the units we block. We have reserved the clubhouse and blocked twenty-one units for **May 21-22, 2010. DO NOT CALL SHORT STAY.** You **MUST** make your reservation with S/M Darlene Hines. You **MUST** do this by April 20th or unreserved units will be released back to Short Stay. Call 824-2589 or e-mail darlene.hines@comcast.net. Your reservation will not be confirmed until payment is received. Deposit is \$62.00 for two bedroom villa.

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:

December 5th