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	Joey Phillip	Marilyn Tharp
Erin Giannetto	Mandie Stone	Nancy Vella
Gail Nathan	Pat Suckow	

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

This February, I and a few members of the Branch and Unit will be attending the Southeast Regional Mid-Year Convention in Atlanta Georgia. The convention is from the 12th to the 14th. The main purpose of the convention is to judge essay's submitted by the Branches and forward the 1st place winners to National. In addition, Standing Committees can meet as required to review annual reports, review by-laws and submit recommendations during the convention. All members in good standing may attend these conventions.

As of December 31st, our membership stood at 986 members in good standing. That is a decline from the previous months. I need not remind everyone that membership and retention is the responsibility of every member of the Branch. There is strength in numbers, our voice on Capitol Hill is only as strong as our membership. Please help us recruit and retain our current members. Let keep our voice strong on Capitol Hill.

Naval History February. 02/02/1800, USS *Constellation* (Capt Thomas Truxton) defeats *la Vengence*. 02/09/1943, organized Japanese resistance on Guadalcanal ends. 02/10/1960, USS *Sargo* (SSN-583) surfaces at North Pole. 02/15/1898, U.S. Battleship *Maine* blows up in Havana Harbor. 02/22/1974, LTJG Barbara Ann Allen becomes first Navy designated female aviator. 02/26/1811, Congress authorizes first Naval Hospital.

That's it for this month, don't forget about the Honor Flight raffle, and please attend the next General Assembly meeting on the 18th.

DiDaDiDaDit. L/P/S Larry M Starland

FRA & LAFRA SCHOLARSHIPS

Information and forms can be found on national's website at www.fra.org. The deadline to submit is April 15th.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONVENTION

The Southeast Regional Convention for the FRA and LAFRA will be in Greenville, SC from August 18th-21st. Details are posted on the bulletin board.

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

The National conventions for the FRA and LAFRA are in Spartanburg, SC from September 12th-19th. Details are on bulletin board.

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 Nathan seconded by S/M Bolz made motion to ratify phone vote, authorizing the expenditure for RPSE Brice's hotel room and dinner at the Fleet. Voice vote carried.

Motion - S/M Bolz seconded by S/M Guarino made motion that the Branch allocates fund to purchase 100 boxes of Girl Scout cookies at the cost of $350 for oversea troops. Voice vote, carried.

Motion - S/M Nathan seconded by S/M Bolz made motion that $750.00 of Home funds be used to purchase "42 LCD TV and full motion mounting bracket. Voice vote, carried.

ANNUAL PICNIC SHORT STAY - 2010

There's only 1 two bedroom 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.

BUZZTIME

Very soon, Buzztime will be no more. Sorry, but at the coat of $79.00 per week and showing it was only played 29 times during the month of December, the contact will not be renewed.

WEEKLY DRAWING at THE HOME

Names drawn lately: 12/29 – Robert Pulos, not signed; 1/5 – Robert Fowler, not signed; 1/12 – Mark Fox, not signed; 1/19 – William Reed, signed, not present; 1/26 – Robert Crenshaw, 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.

MADAM PREZ'S TIDBIT

Welcome to February! It can't be any colder than January was. We have lots of activities for the month and I hope that you can come out and enjoy them. First of course is the Super Bowl party (I know a lot of Saints people). That should make for a hot time in the old town. On February 13th we have a Valentine's party. This includes a Prime rib dinner. There will be a Valentines basket to be raffled off that evening. I promise a few surprises. The cost is $12.00 per person. Please buy your tickets before the cut-off date. We need a head count so we can order the groceries. Then, we have a Mardi Gras party planed. The detail for this will be elsewhere in the newsletter.

The secretary, Karen Adams and I had meeting on January 22nd with SERVP Mildred Brice regarding the problems we have had with National and our membership cards. Mildred is the membership chairman for the SE Region. She receives the list of members who are late with their dues payments. She sends a letter to remind them and hopefully the dues are paid. However, since the various Units are having the same problem as we are some of these letters are either early or the dues have been paid. Mildred took our complaints and copies of the material we have and is going straight to National with it. I want you to continue to let us (Karen or I) know if you are having problems with your membership. I hope that this will enable us to bring our roster up to date. I want to thank everyone for their patience while we have been having these problems. There is nothing more frustrating than standing in front of a General Assembly meeting and having to make excuses for a national officer's problem. I sincerely hope that this is the light at the end of the tunnel.

Our January Luncheon was sorta a success, so we are going to try again. We will be going to Fatz restruant located by the Tanger Outlet Mall. Meet at 11:30 on February 16th. Try to make it, you will have a good time.

If you have a birthday, anniversary or any other excuse to celebrate, please have a wonderful and joyous time. If you are ill (as everyone seems to be) or in the hospital, please get well soon. If there has been a loss of a loved one, please accept our sincere condolences.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service,
Rusty

UNIT CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIPS

Dolores Paul 31yrs	Helen Bruening 3yrs	Georgia Cathcart 3yrs
Sandra White 20yrs	Patrick Wenzel 3yrs	Sara Collins 3yrs
Della Deatherage 10yrs	Morgan Wenzel 3yrs	Dana Ingram 3yrs
Tina Bohannon 9yrs	Michael Wenzel 3yrs	Ellen Kaeser 2yrs
Marsha Crosby 9yrs	Patricia Hair 3yrs	Eugene Robinson 1yr
Tracy Turner 5yrs	Deborah Smith 3yrs	Darlene Ouellette 1yr
Mary Lopez 5yrs	Dianne Carroll 3yrs	
Vicky Blihar 5yrs	Esther Ellisor 3yrs	

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.

Larry Cox 2/01
Margaret Rothrauff 2/01
Carol Fulton 2/01
Andrea Davis 2/01
Caynell Charette 2/02
George Thiebaud 2/02
Kelly Rice 2/02
James Kennedy 2/03
James Palmer 2/03
Michael Wenzel 2/03
John Logan 2/03
Douglas Jordan 2/03
Michael Welch 2/03
Bobby Lambert 2/03
Betty Harris 2/04
Williams Jennings 2/04
Richard Nolan 2/04
Danny Scroggs 2/04
Laura Pike 2/05
Richard Day 2/05
Ronald Baker 2/05
Larry Hill 2/05
Todd Rademacher 2/06
Helen Bruening 2/07
William Patton 2/07
Charlie Calas 2/07
Howard Rudd 2/07
Tim Bailey 2/07
James Spence 2/08
Santos Riduca 2/08
Carol Moore 2/09
Donald Bruening 2/09
Steven Gearhart 2/10
Timothy White, Jr 2/10
Roy Massey 2/11
George Roberts 2/11
Charles Campbell 2/11
William Riley 2/11
Elender Moore 2/12
Karla Phillips 2/12
James Sherrow 2/13
Julio Solado 2/13
Francis Jones 2/13
Daniel Ryan 2/13
Donald Parks 2/14
Julian Lemley 2/14
Darryl Watson 2/14
Valerie Kohr 2/14
William Korbisch 2/15
Jerome White 2/15
Sandy McQuaid 2/15
Bobby Grassman 2/15
David Wegner 2/15
Dwight Bain 2/16
Robert McNeish 2/17
Pete Martellini 2/17
Mabel Steveson 2/18
Stephen Nogle 2/18
Melvin Harper 2/18
Kenneth White 2/18
Rickie Robinson, Jr 2/18
Carroll Watson 2/19
Peter Cosgrove 2/19
William Neff 2/19
Robert Fowler 2/19
Gail Nathan 2/19
Alexander Martin 2/20
Frank Blaszak 2/20
Ralph Brown 2/21
Terri Heath 2/21
Jeffery Miller 2/21
Edward Potts 2/22
Richard Koehler 2/22
Jackie Dayton 2/22
John Dux 2/22
Brian Sims 2/22
Benjamin Larvie 2/23
Norman Muller 2/23
Frank Shoenberger 2/23
Roger Lebel 2/23
Terry Gilmore 2/24
Elizabeth Adams 2/24
Carl Miller 2/25
Ken Huffingham 2/25
Ernest Stewart 2/25
Neal Clark 2/26
Larry Burkhart 2/26
James Baker 2/26
Edith Weaver 2/27
David Cox 2/27
Cecil Rash 2/27
Carol Eustace 2/27
Heather Ivey 2/27
Charles Kuck 2/28
Philip Gardner 2/28
Patricia Williams 2/28
Robert Reilly 2/28
Jason Bolz 2/28
Grover Fewox 2/29
Merv Wiands 2/29
Olin Thomas 2/29

Merry Widows Support Group

February is the 7th anniversary for the Merry Widows group. Please wear your widow's medallion.

Bring cookies (homemade if possible) to share with the Fire Dept. Several of the firemen will visit and enjoy the buffet luncheon. They will be presenting tips on "Home Safety".

We will also have a door prize and the book exchange.

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

FEBRUARY 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	**2** Lunch is served 1100-1300 **WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs**	**3** Lunch is served 1100-1300 **Pizza Night** Galley is open 1700-2100 **1800 - Vietnam Vets**	**4** Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	**5** Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2200 **2000 – Poweroke**	**6** Galley is open 1700-2200 **2000 – Poweroke**
7 **1000hrs to 2000hrs** FREE POOL **Super Bowl party kicks off at 1800hrs**	**8** Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	**9** Lunch is served 1100-1300 **1130 - Merry Widows luncheon** **WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs**	**10** Lunch is served 1100-1300 **Pizza Night** Galley is open 1700-2100	**11** Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100 **1900- Sub Vets Meeting**	**12** Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2200 **2000 – Poweroke**	**13** **0900 – Field Day** **1200 – Home Committee** **1800-2000hrs Valentine Dinner** Galley is open 1700-2200 **2000 – Poweroke**
14 **1000hrs to 2000hrs** FREE POOL	**15** Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	**16** Lunch is served 1100-1300 11:30 - Unit Luncheon Fatz **6:30 – UNIT BOD** **7:00 – UNIT General Assembly** **WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hr**	**17** Lunch is served 1100-1300 **Pizza Night** Galley is open 1700-2100	**18** Lunch is served 1100-1300 **1800– BRANCH BOD** **1900- BRANCH General Assembly** Galley is open 1700-2100	**19** Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2200 **2000 – Poweroke**	**20** Galley is open 1700-2200 **2000 – Poweroke**
21 **1000hrs to 2000hrs** FREE POOL	**22** Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	**23** Lunch is served 1100-1300 **WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hr**	**24** Lunch is served 1100-1300 **Pizza Night** Galley is open 1700-2100	**25** Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100 **1930 - Marine Corp League Meeting**	**26** Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2200 **2000 – Poweroke**	**27** Galley is open 1700-2200 **2000 – Poweroke** **2000- "ELVIS" Danny Stirling**
28 **1000hrs to 2000hrs** FREE POOL	**MARCH 1** Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	**2** Lunch is served 1100-1300 **WINGS NIGHT 1700-2100hrs**	**3** Lunch is served 1100-1300 **Pizza Night** Galley is open 1700-2100 **1800 - Vietnam Vets**	**4** Lunch is served 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2100	**5** Lunch 1100-1300 Galley is open 1700-2200 **2000 – Poweroke**	**6** Galley is open 1700-2200 **MARDI GRAS** **2000 – Poweroke**

MARDI GRAS – March 6th

Mardi Gras is back. Authentic Cajun food cooked by our own Eric Bourgeois. $7.50 per dinner. Real gumbo jambalaya, shrimp etouffee and more. King cake will be served to determine the king and queen of our Mardi Gras 2010. Attire suggestions in the spirit of Mardi Gras are purple, gold and green masks. There will be a parade with throws of beads, moonpies and dabloons. Will have a basket raffle. Come out March 6th, 2010 and enjoy a fun evening of uninhibited frivolity. IAEEE !

BRANCH CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIPS

Congratulations!!! This is your anniversary month.

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

Kenneth Adam 45yrs	William Hall 11yrs	Robert Jones 3yrs
Walter Job 36yrs	Robert Melton 10yrs	Johnny Brown 3yrs
Thomas Davis 33yrs	Thomas Morrison 10yrs	Robert Stodola 3yrs
Nate Nathan 32yrs	William Allen 11yrs	John Kennedy 3yrs
Paul March 32yrs	William Rowlands 10yrs	Robert Isaman 3yrs
David Adams 32yrs	James Moseley 10yrs	Vedonna Sutton 3yrs
Donald Larsen 31yrs	Dennis Pierce 10yrs	Larry Sanders 3yrs
John Opocensky 31yrs	Paul Viering 9yrs	Robert Hudspeth 3yrs
Francis Evans 31yrs	Eugene Morris 9yrs	William Adams 3yrs
Thomas Britton 31yrs	Gerald Johnson 9yrs	Richard Davis 3yrs
Patrick Sullivan 31yrs	William Roup 9yrs	Tim Zartman 3yrs
Charles Campbell 30yrs	William Hayes 9yrs	James Willcutt 3yrs
Keith Suiter 30yrs	Timothy Jacobs 9yrs	James Willicutt, Jr 3yrs
David Rein 30yrs	James Turner 8yrs	Robert Bear 3yrs
Donald Petersen 29yrs	Elmer Mullins 7yrs	Carl Miller 2yrs
Marvin Meistrell 28yrs	Brian Brooks 7yrs	Leroy Peck 2yrs
Albert Stoll 28yrs	Daniel Shelley 7yrs	Arthur Robinson 2yrs
Richard Thompson 27yrs	Ginger Bevis 7yrs	Carla Passmore 2yrs
Wendall Calloway 26yrs	Eldon Carson 6yrs	Gregory Berry 1yr
Norris Williams 24yrs	Catherine Lawrence 6yrs	Norman Wicke 1yr
Stanley Richards 23yrs	Joseph Farrell 6yrs	John Logan 1yr
Warren Kratz 20yrs	Richard Jones 5yrs	James Pickett 1yr
Walter Deal 18yrs	Larry Turner 5yrs	Francisco Agbunag 1yr
Loye Bryant 17yrs	Robert Pulos 4yrs	Wallace Williams 1yr
Allen Katen 13yrs	Robert Rogers 4yrs	Jerry Williams 1yr
Oscar Stephens 13yrs	Tom Lufkin 4yrs	Phillip Kirkland 1yr
Donald Bruening 13yrs	Jay Duncan 4yrs	Jennifer Beilstein 1yr
Todd Baker 12yrs	Duane Clark 4yrs	William Scheer 1yr
Richard Brown 12yrs	Lee McClenny 3yrs	

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.

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER
February 13th

Come out and enjoy a Prime Rib dinner for $12.00 each. Ticket are on sale until February 8th. Dinner will be served form 6:00-8:00pm. There will be Roses for the sweethearts.

VALENTINE'S BASKET RAFFLE

A basket full of Valentine theme items will be raffled off February 13th. Tickets at the Home.

ELVIS & TOM WILL BE IN THE HOME
February 27th

Danny Stirling as Elvis with Michael Viljac as Tom Jones is back! Tickets are on sale for $l5.00 per person. After Feb 21st. Tickets will be $20.00 per person. Seating charts will be utilized. So get your tickets early for your favorite seat.

Come out and see the new acts.

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

Feb 7th – Super Bowl Party: Tickets on sale at the bar.
Feb 13th – Valentines Day – Prime Rib dinner
Feb 27th – Elvis & Tom Jones Show
Mar 6th - Mardi Gras Party
Mar 12th - St. Patrick's Day dinner. Corn beef and cabbage
Apr 24th – Western Night

Subject to change and additions.

RAFFLE FOR
WW II HONOR FLIGHT GUARDIAN

Due to pre-flight meeting on April 1st, **the drawing will be March 26th at 2000hrs.**

The Branch is entitled to provide one guardian on the next Honor Flight on April 24th after the donation that was made. This $500.00 valued seat is being raffled off. Tickets are $20.00 each. **ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE WWII HONOR FLIGHT.**

If you know someone you want to be a guardian, buy a ticket in their name. Put your name down as the seller.

The winner must be truly willing to be a guardian and must meet the criteria. It takes time, not just the day of the flight and you must be able to take care of the WWII veterans assigned to you. S/M Larry Starland can answer more of your questions.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New or Reinstated Members	7
Transferred into Low Country Branch 269	1
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander	1
Suspended members	14
Members past due	29
Transferred from Branch 269	1
TOTAL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AS OF 31DEC09	986

WELCOME ABOARD SHIPMATES

New, Reinstated, & Transferred Members

Barbara Aler	Edgar Holland	Nathaniel Poke
Phillip Catanach	Donavan Jackson	Jonathan Rhoades
Earl Goodell	Rockette Miller	

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking	$12,601.87
Savings	$4,502.04
Total	$17,103.91

HOME FINANCIAL REPORT

NOVEMBER '09

NET PROFIT	$990.27
BUILDING FUND	$21,026.21
MORTAGE BALANCE	$170,207.65

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

G'day Shipmates and Ladies

Hope everyone is having a good year so far. Got a few things coming up for the month of February. The Super Bowl Party is February 7th, commencing at 1800hrs (6:00pm), with LAST CALL at the final two minute warning. Hope to see ya'll there. On Saturday the 13th of February, we're having a Valentines Day Dinner starting at 1800 till 2000. Dinner will be Prime Rib @ $12.00 and all sweethearts get a rose. Deadline for tickets is February 8th.

On Saturday the 27th Elvis will be in the building. His special guest will be Tom Jones. So come on out and see these two performers "LIVE LIVE LIVE" Tickets are on sale now for $15.00 a person until the 21st and then go up to $20.00.

In March we're going to have our Mardi Gras Party on Saturday the 6th. Our favorite Cajun Dude and his wife, Nurse Good-body will prepare the fixins' We've always had a lot of fun with this party, so come on out and enjoy the food, the atmosphere, the games and try to get your beads on.

Remember folks, the Home is there for your enjoyment and pleasure. We have excellent food, entertainment, lowest priced beverages anywhere and friendly shipmates and ladies always there to remind us of were we came from. We're still running our Scotch Doubles Pool Tournament on Fridays and 8 Ball tourney on Saturdays. Sadly, it looks as though we'll be saying goodbye to Buzztime. We gave it a shot, but the intensity and participation just isn't there. If anyone has a complaint or a recommendation, there is a suggestion box by the juke box, or come to a Home Committee meeting. We will listen.

That's it for this month, but I hope to see around the Home. Until next month,

Yours in LPS,
Nate