

FRA, LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269

<http://www.fra269.org>

BRANCH OFFICERS

President – Larry Starland
(day)729-0423(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	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
Treasurer – Linda Cox
553-9025
Vice-President – Karen Adams
553-9121
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

I hope every one had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We had plenty going on at the Fleet. On December 16th the Marines picked up all the gifts collected from our Toys for Tots campaign in addition to all the toys we purchased through our Angel Tree Donations. I'm not sure of the final total, but a lot of children had a happier Christmas thanks to all your kindness. On the 19th, Santa came to visit with some of the children and grand children of our members. I don't know how he finds time in his busy schedule to meet with our children, but Thank You Santa. (Did you get my Letter? Will a delivery truck of Coors Lite fit in your sled?) Later on the 19th we had the Branch and Unit Christmas party, and then on the 31st, our New Years Eve Party. I hope none of our Bar Top Dancers slipped on the refurbished section of the bar. I'm sure S/M Chuck Hines put up the "No Dancing" signs. Well anyways, here's wishing all our members and their families a prosperous New Year in 2010.

The next Honor Flight is scheduled for the 24th of April 2010. To our 40 plus WW II Veterans, I urge you to submit an application for this flight. If you go you won't regret it. It's free. The flight leaves Charleston at 7:00 AM and returns at 7:00 PM. If a member would like to go as a Guardian, the cost is \$500.00 for the trip. But as a result of our last donation, the Branch gets to send one guardian at no additional expense. We will have a raffle for this privilege starting in late January. Details of the raffle will be forth coming. All proceeds from the raffle will be donated back to the Honor Flight. Application for Veterans and Guardians are posted on the bulletin board at the Fleet.

Naval History: January. 01/03/1945, Third Fleet carriers begin a 2 day attack against Formosa destroying 100 aircraft with loss of only 22 aircraft. 01/09/1861, Union steamer *Star of the West* fired on in Charleston Harbor. 01/16/1930, *USS Lexington* provides power to Tacoma, WA, when floods knocked out city power plants. 01/18/1991, *USS Nicholas* attacks and captures Iraqi oil platforms. 01/20/1783, Hostilities cease between Great Britain and the United States. 01/23/1968, *USS Pueblo* seized by North Korean forces in Sea of Japan. 01/28/1986, Space shuttle *Challenger* explodes killing CDR Michael Smith, USN, and 6 other astronauts. 01/31/1961, Lieutenant Commander Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr. becomes first African-American to command a combat ship, *USS Falgout*.

That's it for now; we have to get our news letter inputs in early. It seems our Shipmate Secretary is finally going out to sea. (Where's the sea sick pills?)

DiDaDiDaDit.

In L/P/S Larry M. Starland

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of

Michael Stuffle, TM1, USN-Ret

Lady Mary Pearson

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

Motion - S/M Bolz seconded by S/M Nathan made motion that the Branch raffle off the WWII honor flight guardian slot that the Branch earned after making a donation, chances to be \$20.00 each. Voice vote, carried. Winner must meet criteria to be a guardian.

WEEKLY DRAWING at THE HOME

Names drawn lately: 11/24 – John Aragay, not signed; 12/1 – Conrado Celestial, not signed; 12/8 – Merle Melling, not signed; 12/15 – James “Smokey” Stover, signed, not present; 12/22 – Robert Sowards, 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

OCTOBER '09

NET PROFIT	\$5,044.16
BUILDING FUND	\$21,021.37
MORTGAGE BALANCE	\$178,010.37

MADAM PREZ'S TIDBIT

The presents are gone from under the tree, all the wrapping paper is in the trash and maybe, just maybe all of the dishes are washed and put away. Maybe too, that big plate that I saw somewhere that said “Christmas calories don't count” is really true on the day after Christmas too. I hope that every one had a wonderful holiday and all your wishes whispered in Santa's ear came true.

We had a very nice Branch and Unit Christmas party with an ornament exchange after. The children had a great time visiting with Santa earlier that day. All of the children that had signed up attended. The elves even survived the play dough.

I hope that all of the ladies will come to the meeting in January with lots of vim and vigor and full of ideas to make our auxiliary better than ever. We will make every effort to make it grow.

January is sort of a slow month after a very hectic December. You can look forward to the Super Bowl party in February 7th, and Elvis on the 27th of February. That's right; Elvis will be in the building singing and performing like never before. Details elsewhere in the newsletter.

We would like to re-instate the Ladies luncheon and will meet on the 19th of January at 11:30 at the Golden Corral across from the Tanger Outlet Mall. You know, this chance to go out and enjoy lunch and fellowship is not restricted to members of Unit 269. Bring members from another Unit, your relatives, houseguests and friends. I'd like to see a return of a good sized group.

One of our long time members, Mary Pearson, passed away just before Christmas and I would like to extend our heart felt condolences to Pete and their children.

If there are other instances of sorrow, please accept our condolences. If you are celebrating a happy occasion, we are happy for you. If you are unlucky enough to have an illness, please get well soon.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service,
Rusty

UNIT CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIPS

Neta Fewox 42yrs	Taffy Clark 7yrs	Bonnie McElroy 2yrs
Rusty Wenzel 31 yrs	Cynthia Wheat 4yrs	Kimberly Sparkman 2yrs
Dorothy Nephew 17yrs	Nancy Parker 4yrs	Heather Wenzel 1yr
Dorothy Brace 11yrs	Marguerite Descoteaux 3yrs	James Slotterback 1yr
Myranda Stone 7yrs	Patricia Keeler 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.

Vincent Tamburrino 1/01	Thomas Huffcut 1/08	Kristopher Knudsen 1/18
Joy McGuinness 1/01	Edgar Holland 1/08	Dennis Rash 1/19
Carol Fitzwater 1/01	Steve Koch 1/08	Joyce Kraft 1/19
Marion Johnson 1/01	Wade Reid 1/09	Elizabeth Cosimano 1/19
Frank Bohannon 1/01	Barbara Aler 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
Yoshino Catoe 1/03	Jeremy Leal 1/09	Melanie Branham 1/21
Rosemary Clark 1/03	Evan Barnard 1/10	Arthur Robinson 1/21
Robert Moore 1/03	Thomas Beach 1/10	Tracie Rabon 1/21
Martin Riley 1/03	Suzi Davis 1/11	Thomas Scott 1/22
Nathaniel Mizzell 1/03	Gary Gardner 1/11	Faye Pyatt 1/22
Karen Kopczyński 1/03	Jacqueline Paxton 1/11	Gary Theriault 1/22
Phyllis Henry 1/04	Ray Williams 1/11	Jennifer Buell 1/22
Richard Duprey 1/04	Bobby Beck 1/12	William Lindler 1/23
Vicky Blihar 1/04	Roger Qualls 1/13	William Bevis 1/23
Joey Carnley 1/04	William Clark 1/13	Joseph Beneventano 1/23
Robert Lambert 1/05	Girard Coutu 1/13	Edward Stank 1/23
Billy Fowler 1/05	Claudia Shenton 1/14	Donald Lozen 1/25
David Hartkemeyer 1/05	Yoshie Kelly 1/14	Michael Kay 1/25
Thomas Tellefsen 1/05	Karen McDaniel 1/14	Kirk Owen 1/25
Robert Isaman 1/05	Michael Struve 1/14	George Gruber 1/25
Chris Ludwig 1/05	Dean Dupont 1/15	James Johnson 1/25
Phillip Euper 1/06	Clarence Lammers 1/15	Linda Belch 1/26
Cori Janney 1/06	Alan Laberge 1/15	Kenneth Farrell 1/26
Roy Brosseau 1/06	Dianna Ogle 1/15	Terry Mummert 1/26
Kelley Haselden 1/06	Maria Lewis 1/16	Dianne Woodward 1/27
Patrick O'Rourke 1/06	Charles Day 1/16	Everett Summers 1/27
Thomas Chase 1/06	Jackie Moore 1/17	Dennis Marshall 1/27
Robert Stadler 1/07	Val Coggins 1/17	Fred Knight 1/28
Samuel Cosimano 1/07	William Scheer 1/17	Robert Shoecraft 1/28
Gerald Farr 1/08	Dana Roberts 1/17	Edward Feidt 1/28
David Graminski 1/08	James Lyda 1/18	Willard Burton 1/29
Arlie Cunningham 1/08	Harry Kirk 1/18	Rusty Wenzel 1/30
Judith Highberger 1/08	Herbert Franklin 1/18	Michael Welch 1/30
James Lewis 1/08	Marty Gavin 1/18	Stanley Richards 1/31
Ginger Bevis 1/08	Kimberly Sparkman 1/18	

Merry Widows Support Group

The Merry Widows will meet on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at the FRA Home at 11:30am. We will formulate our plans for the year 2010. Enjoy a buffet luncheon, door prize and book exchange.

Let's try for an attendance of 20, call someone and encourage them to attend.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection, & Service,

Betty Harris - 552-1416 or C# 412-6753

e-mail: jewelbettyh09@hotmail.com

JANUARY 2010

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

BRANCH CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIPS

Congratulations!!! This is your anniversary month.

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

D. B. Lane 53yrs	Jeff Peteranl 9yrs	Ed McLaughlin 2yrs
Arthur Miller 41 yrs	Olin Thomas 7yrs	Robert William 2yrs
Theodore Martin 40yrs	Marion Clark 7yrs	Fred Woodley 2yrs
Karl Humbertson 38yrs	Rodney Carter 7yrs	Kristopher Knudsen 2yrs
Tom Wunder 38yrs	Robert Reilly 7yrs	Ron Minton 2yrs
Salvatore Leonti 34yrs	Jerry Morgan 7yrs	Jack Bullis 2yrs
Murrell Wilson 31yrs	Jerome Ferneding 7yrs	Evan Barnard 2yrs
William Teague 31yrs	Keith Schnebel 6yrs	Richard Baker 2yrs
Nestor Derecho 29yrs	James Johnson 6yrs	Fred Knight 2yrs
Thomas Seymour 28yrs	Michael Markiewich 6yrs	Dustin Mizzell 2yrs
Robert Taylor 28yrs	Joseph Larose 5yrs	Val Daschle 2yrs
Wayne Swiech 25yrs	John Magnan 5yrs	Heather Ivey 1yr
David Cornelius 24yrs	Grady Langley 5yrs	Lloyd Wiggins 1yr
Alex Gordon 24yrs	William Riley 4yrs	Frederick Bourne 1yr
Robert Stadler 17yrs	William Ahner 4yrs	Richard Kaminsky 1yr
Alvin Addington 17yrs	Stan Rhorer 4yrs	J. D. Porter 1yr
Danny Mills 15yrs	Elmer Avenel 4yrs	Benjamin McDonald 1yr
Grady Jones 15yrs	Guerry Lloyd 4yrs	Winfield Meadows 1yr
Bruce Rose 11yrs	William Hopta 4yrs	Stephen Bolz 1yr
Richard Sparger 10yrs	Ronald Redondo 3yrs	Willie Hampton 1yr
Joe Travis 10yrs	Bobby Grassman 3yrs	Timothy Hibbs 1yr
Paul Reece 10yrs	Robert Collins 3yrs	John Marrinan 1yr
Carol Fulton 10yrs	Mike Donovan 3yrs	Joseph McMarigal 1yr
Daniel Sease 10yrs	George Williams 3yrs	Peter Cosgrove 1yr
Charles Pyatt 9yrs	Theodore Nesbitt 3yrs	Llewellyn Brennen 1yr
Ronnie Vandiver 9yrs	Mark Fiorey 3yrs	
Larry Starland 9yrs	Robert Block 3yrs	

ANNUAL PICNIC SHORT STAY - 2010

There's only 2 (handicap villa was turned back in), 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.

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.

VALENTINES DAY DINNER

February 13th

Come out and enjoy a Prime Rib dinner for \$12.00 each. Ticket sales will start Jan. 8th until Feb. 8th. Dinner will be served form 6:00-8:00pm. There will be Roses for the sweethearts.

ELVIS & TOM WILL BE IN THE HOME

February 27th

Danny Stirling as Elvis with Michael Viljac as Tom Jones is back! Tickets go on sale Jan. 8th for \$15.00 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
Jan 16th – Field Day & Home Committee meeting
Feb 7th – Super Bowl Party: Tickets on sale at the bar.
Feb 13th – Valentines Day – Prime Rib dinner
Feb 27th – Elvis & Tom Jones Show
Apr 24th – Western Night

Subject to change and additions.

JUDGES NEEDED FOR ESSAY CONTEST

It's essay judging time. S/M Larry Cox is seeking members to help judge this year's essay contest. Be at the Home on Saturday, January 9th at 1200hrs. There is over a hundred essays to be read.

RAFFLE FOR WW II HONOR FLIGHT GUARDIAN

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 and the winner will be drawn on Friday April 2nd at 2000hrs. **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	9
Transferred into Low Country Branch 269	0
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander	0
Suspended members	13
Members past due	26
Transferred from Branch 269	0
TOTAL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AS OF 30NOV09	996

WELCOME ABOARD SHIPMATES

New, Reinstated, & Transferred Members

William Anderson	Luis Castillo	Bob Hollis
Nida Anderson	Miguel Emerson	Vincent Johnson
William Bradley	Edward Feidt	Nava Oswald

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking	\$12,094.11
Savings	\$4,500.51
Total	\$16,594.52

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 FRA Branch & Unit Shipmates!

Hope ya'll had a Merry Christmas. We're getting ready to start a brand new year around here, and let's hope it'll be a productive and rewarding year for all of us.

Not a whole lot to report for January, other than the New Years Eve celebration is on track, with the **Spastics** as our entertainment. I don't think we've ever had a bad New Years Party. The month of February is starting to look good for business. We'll be having our Super Bowl Party on the 7th and we still have room at the Inn for those wishing to participate. The Valentines Day Party is on the 13th. We are still working on the Elvis show sometime in the month of February. Stay tuned for more on that.

The Home will be open on New Years day, so come on in and socialize with the rest of the revelers. We're still doing Scotch Doubles Pool on Fridays and Regular 8 Ball Pool on Saturdays. Come on down to the Home and mingle and party with your shipmates and sing a little karaoke and eat an excellent dinner. Can't hurt, can it? Remember, we have the lowest prices around and we have it set this way for the members of the Branch & Unit to have a place to come out to and enjoy themselves.

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

Yours in LPS,
Nate