



# VFW Post 8870

Edmonds, WA

[www.vfw8870.org](http://www.vfw8870.org)

Jim Traner, Editor

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## Jim Braun Passes Away

I was notified that long time member Jim Braun has passed away due to complications from diabetes. Jim had recently been admitted to a rehabilitation facility after replacement surgery when he was transferred to the hospital to treat diabetes where he passed away. Jim was an active member of our Post and the American Legion. While I have no details at this time as to the date and time of any services, we will try to keep you apprised of any news via our email list. Speaking for our Post and myself, Jim's raspy voice, good humor and big smile will be missed.

## Post Holds Elections 2009-10

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Jim Traner</b>
<b>Senior Vice Commander</b>	<b>Rock Roth</b>
<b>Junior Vice Commander</b>	<b>Fred Apgar</b>
<b>Quartermaster/Adjutant</b>	<b>Elizabeth Mather</b>
<b>Surgeon</b>	<b>Al Boyett</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Edgar Gray, Jr.</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>Phil Sacks</b>
<b>1st Year Trustee</b>	<b>Buck Weaver</b>
<b>2nd Year Trustee</b>	<b>Les Able</b>
<b>3rd Year Trustee</b>	<b>Duane Pounds</b>

The Post held elections at the April meeting with the slate being accepted without any nominations from the floor. Being the new Commander, I was quite pleased with the slate of officers selected. They are all excellent choices and will serve the Post well. Committee positions are being filled as well. Bob Crawford will take over as Poppy Chair, John Casapiedra will be Officer of the Day, Service Officers will be Bob Gabelein representing the island folks and Roosevelt Ward, the mainland folks, Fred Apgar will head up the Voice of Democracy & Patriots Pen essays, Rock Roth & Les Abel will be the liaisons with the Scouts, and the Smokey Point rest area fund raiser will be headed up by John Casapiedra with Jim Adams & Phil Sacks lending a hand. If any of you see a need that hasn't been met, let me know. I would like to have some help on the newsletter this year so if anyone has an urge to become a cub reporter, let me know. Also, we need a communications liaison to interface with the news media. We are active on a number of different projects and we need to get the word out telling folks what we are doing as a Post.

## Mike Reagan to be Honored

First of all, VFW Post member Mike Reagan was interviewed by VFW talk radio about the Fallen Heroes Project. You can listen to it at <http://vfwnationaldefense.blogspot.com/2009/04/fallen-heroes-projectspecial-message.html> (just copy the link and paste it to your web browser). It's an excellent interview. As a result of the interview, Mike has been invited to attend the VFW National Conference held in Phoenix in August and receive the Commander in Chief Gold Metal for the project. I hadn't planned on attending, but I think I will stop by and see Mike get this well deserved recognition. In addition, Mike's project will be featured in the May issue of the VFW magazine so make sure you read your issue. And finally, Mike will be speaking at the State convention in Yakima in June. Well deserved recognition for all the long hours (and emotions) that Mike puts into this project. A big tip of the hat to Mike.

## District Convention

The District One convention is being held May 16th at the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club (about a block south of the Old Spaghetti Factory on 196th). Lunch is at noon and the meeting starts at 1:00PM. We had a great turnout at the last District meeting so if you can make it, it would be nice to have the largest representation of any Post in the District (which was the case in January).

## Need A Lift?

If you need a lift to the meeting, just give Liz Mather, the quartermaster, a call or drop her an email. We can't promise we can get everyone, but we sure will give it a good try. A lot of guys are getting grounded, so to speak, but that isn't a good reason to miss a meeting. On the other hand, if you are interested in providing transportation to a fellow member, let Liz know and she can match riders with drivers.

## Poppy Signup Sheet—Time is Short

For all of you procrastinators, we are now closing in on Memorial Day. Phil Sacks is trying to get an idea of how many members will be available on May 22nd and 23rd for Buddy Poppies. If we can get enough volunteers we can expand our coverage to a couple of other stores and increase our fund raising. If you can't make the meetings give Phil a call at 425-741-7311. We can really use the help of the younger guys so please give the Post a hand if you can.

## Board Meeting

Board Meetings are held the Tuesday of the week of our regular meeting at Jim Traner's office at 110 James St., Suite 106, Edmonds 9AM. Anyone is welcome to attend. If you have a specific issue you would like raised and can't make the meeting, contact our Quartermaster@vfw8870.org.

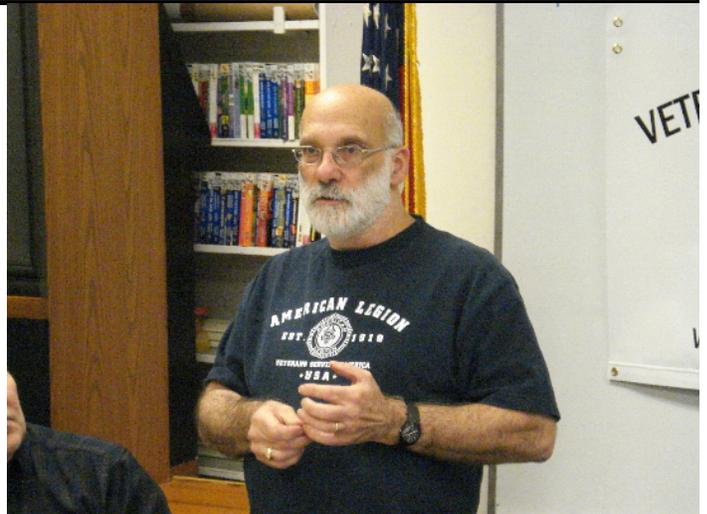


**UW Researcher Sydney Thomas Trying To Draw Blood from Your Editor**

The U of W research team investigating Parkinson's disease was on hand after the April meeting for a blood draw to obtain samples used as a control group in their research into Parkinson's. After two probing needles, Sydney finally gave up in trying to find any blood in my body. I forgot to tell her I was a CPA and I had already given every drop I had to give to the IRS. Hopefully she was more successful with the line of members that stayed late to participate in this project.

**American Legion Lends us a Hand**

Phil Sacks in moving into a condo and can't store all the Buddy Poppy stuff he has accumulated, Duane Pounds has stands and signs in his garage, and I have a bunch of stuff as well. The American Legion has come to our rescue by lending us a storage area at their facility. So if you have any tables, signs, cans, etc., we will probably have a "moving day" after the Memorial Day weekend and stash everything in one place for a change. A big word of thanks to our brethren over at the American Legion for assisting us. And speaking of that, Les Abel is commander and would like me to mention that you are all available to join the Legion.



**Max - A Good Guy to Know**

Max Bettman, a member of both America Legion and VFW Post 1040, works out of the Community Base Outpatient Clinic in Lake City. Max spoke about the assisting veterans wade through the red tape of the VA. Most of us who have had interactions with the VA know their tape is the reddest of the red. Max is the district service officer for the American Legion. Along with our service officer, Roosevelt Ward, the more access we have to individuals who are knowledgeable about dealing with the VA, the better prepared we are to assist our membership (and any veteran who may seek our assistance). Max's phone number is 206-384-4382 or 206-349-2911.

**Memorial Day Services**

Remember that our Post is assisting in the flag raising ceremony at the cemetery on Memorial Day. I would like everyone that can attend to please try and make it by 10:30AM on May 25th. The cemetery is located a block north of Westgate (our QFC and PPC poppy locations) on 9th Avenue. Also, it isn't a bad idea to bring a chair to sit on as the program typically lasts around an hour and provided seating is limited. This year, the Navy Seabees will be recognized. Also, the Post will pick up the flags at 4PM that day so if you can lend a hand, swing by. It isn't a lot of work, but the more the merrier.

**May Meeting is Installation of Officers & Membership Recognition**

Don Williams, District 1 Commander, will be attending the May meeting to install the new officers. At the same meeting the Auxiliary will install their officers. We urge everyone to attend. In addition, recognition of length of service will be rewarded. Our quartermaster has mailed questionnaires to everyone and I would urge you to fill them out and return them to her. This isn't just your length of membership in VFW Post 8870, but your entire tenure in VFW. Many of us have moved from Post to Post over the years so don't be bashful in responding if your time with 8870 is relatively short.



## Minutes from the April 10, 2009 Meeting

Prior to the meeting, Acting Officer of the Day Fred Apgar draped the vacant chair set aside for POW/MIA's while Chaplain Ed Gray said a prayer in their remembrance. The meeting then opened in proper order with a prayer delivered by Chaplain Ed Gray, the Pledge of Allegiance and a salute to the flag. There were 24 members in attendance. Commander Duane Pounds introduced visitors Elmer Johnson, Commander Post #921, and Charlie Estes, who spoke of his being awarded recognition of his 10 years of service as a Friend of the National Home.

The roll call of officers found the Junior Vice Commander, Service Officer and Officer of the Day absent. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. The Quartermaster's report for the month of March had been submitted to the board at their regular monthly meeting and approved. Copies were available for distribution to the members. There were no new members to be inducted. It was reported that Jim Braun was in rehab after a knee replacement.

Hospital and Community Service Chairman Al Boyett reminded the members to include their names on reports. Included in the month's report was Mike Reagan's "Fallen Heroes" Project. The services provided by Post 8870 participation came to a total of \$1997.

Buddy Poppy Chairman Phil Sacks once again passed around the sign up sheet to solicit volunteers for the remaining slots open at the various markets.

Les Abel reported on the Town Hall Meeting held in Shoreline by the State Department of Veterans Affairs. A link to their site can be found by going to [www.vfw8870.org](http://www.vfw8870.org) for contact numbers and other information.

Fred Apgar had on display the vinyl table banners he procured to be used for Post 8870 programs. He has made final changes to the Flag Etiquette brochure and they should be ready in a couple of weeks.

Nominating Chairman Buck Weaver proposed that because of the unavailability of the previously proposed nominee for Judge Advocate, that Phil Sacks be asked to fill that position. The completed slate of nominated officers for the 2009-2010 term was as follows:

Commander Jim Traner	Senior Vice Commander Rock Roth
Junior Vice Commander Fred Apgar	Quartermaster Elizabeth Mather
Chaplain Ed Gray	Judge Advocate Phil Sacks
Surgeon Al Boyett	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee Duane Pounds

There being no further nominations, Phil Sacks made a motion to accept the officers as nominated. The motion was seconded by Dexter Miller. The officers were then duly elected by unanimous vote of the members present.

Jim Traner reminded the post of the upcoming Everett Aquasox Professional Baseball Club group event featuring military appreciation night on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$9.00. Contact Jim to sign up or for further information, [troys@aquasox.com](mailto:troys@aquasox.com)

Jim also reminded the post of the board meetings that are held at his office at 0900 on the Tuesdays before the regularly scheduled monthly post meeting dates. Anyone is welcome to attend. The address is 110 James Street, Suite 106, Edmonds.

A new Post 8870 charter has been issued by VFW National recognizing the consolidation of Post 7482 and Post 8870. The Edmonds post name and number remain the same.

A special recognition for POW/MIA's will be made at the Edmonds Cemetery on the observance of Memorial Day, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Buck Weaver reported that the WASPS, long ignored for their contribution during the war, were finally recognized by Congress in 1972 as a true force during World War II. With the recent support of the U.S. government, a museum is being established in Sweetwater, Texas in their honor.

Jim Traner reported that the U.S. government, after 60 years, has finally recognized the Philippine veterans for their contribution during World War II.

Historian Leroy Middleton told of the origination of the term "honeymoon". It was the practice 4,000 years ago in Babylon, that for a month after a wedding, the bride's father would provide the groom with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer, and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we now know as honeymoon.

Les Abel introduced speaker Max Dettman, the VA Service Officer for the Puget Sound District, who spoke of the various kinds of support available to veterans and their dependents, including medical, financial, Aid and Attendance, and nursing home care. He is available at the VA Outpatient Clinic in Lake City and the VA Hospital in Seattle. He can be reached at (206) 384-4382 or (206) 349-2911.

Fred Apgar won the raffle and donated his half of the \$31.00 to the Post General Fund.

Chaplain Ed Gray delivered the closing prayer, and the meeting ended with a flag salute.

## A Bit of Trivia about Loyalty Day—May 1st

The following is plagiarized directly from Wikipedia—The holiday was first observed in 1921 as "Americanization Day," and was intended to counterbalance the celebration of Labor Day, an internationally celebrated holiday which was perceived as communist. Loyalty Day is celebrated with parades and ceremonies in several U.S. communities, although many people in the United States remain unaware of it. Although a legal holiday, it is not a federal holiday, and is not commonly observed. It was made an official holiday by the U.S. Congress on July 18, 1958 (Public Law 85-529). Following the passage of this law, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed May 1, 1959 the first official observance of Loyalty Day.



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**The Last Word**

First, let me say I am honored to be elected Commander of Post 8870. We've been growing both from new members, but also with our consolidation with the Clinton Post. Growth is good, but retention is better. I was filling out my "longevity" questionnaire we all received from our Quartermaster. Before becoming an active member of Post 8870, I was a card carrying member of the Yakima Post where I joined in 1969, the Mukilteo Post (now gone due to lack of membership), Everett Post 2100, and Lynnwood Post 1040. Not once, to my memory, did I receive a single phone call or letter from any Post welcoming me other than from Post 8870. I am not downplaying the good work those other Posts must have been doing in the community, but they certainly didn't reach out to the new members to become active members. I think once the quota had been met and the proper paperwork filed with State and National, it was business as usual. Post 8870 was different. Every month the phone call from Buck Weaver or Leroy Middleton would let me know I was invited to the Post meeting. And Phil Sacks would catch me at our fly fishing club meeting to see if I could make it on Friday. Finally, I stopped by just to meet these guys. I'm glad I did.

So getting back to those other Posts. I have to admit I was a bit busy in those years with raising a family, commuting to work in Seattle, coaching Little League, being an active member in other service groups such as Rotary, so missing a meeting of VFW didn't particularly bother me since it didn't seem to bother the Post either. Looking back on it, I realize I missed out, probably more than the Posts missed out. I would like to see us being more active in reaching out to our membership. This newsletter is one way, but personal contact is the best way. We have a lot of very talented members, young and old. Getting everyone to participate isn't going to happen. But if we reach out and make sure those who want to participate feel welcome to do so, we will be a better Post because of it.