



VFW Post 8870
Edmonds, WA
www.vfw8870.org

Duane Pounds,
Commander

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Vacation Issue

Ok Guys & Gals, I admit this will be an abbreviated issue. To many fishing trips to Montana and Oregon and not enough time for volunteer work. However, as the minutes from our Quartermaster Liz reflect, the August meeting was very interesting. Mr. Rick Kamenshine of The Association for Wartime Veterans, LLC spoke of a program which benefits veterans who have served during times of conflict (not necessarily overseas) who are eligible to obtain assistance with extended care or nursing home facilities depending on their income levels and the amount of assets they own. The benefits can range from \$28,161 to \$11,715 depending on eligibility. Without boring you with the details, I will say if you believe you may be interest in more information, our Service chair, Roosevelt Ward, can certainly assist you in getting the correct data.

Patriot Day & POW/MIA Recognition Day

Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11th is designated as "Patriot Day". The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor to the individuals who lost their lives that day due to the terrorist attacks on the United States.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is September 21. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. In addition, all federal agencies will be flying the POW/MIA flag on that day.

Keep the Family Informed

Roosevelt Ward made an interesting point at that last meeting. Apparently some veterans never inform their families of their past military service. Upon their passing, the families are unaware that they are eligible for benefits on their death. As a CPA, I find this pretty incredible. Not only should this information be provided to family members, but also the locations of wills, safety deposit boxes, and the location of other important documents (i.e. DD 214's). If you haven't done it yet, bring this information up to date and share it with the appropriate family member.

Orting Outing

The date for the trip to Orting is Saturday, September 15, 2007, departing the Senior Center at 9:00AM (or 0900 for you retired military guys). The trip will cost approximately \$20 a head depending on the number of participants. The trip will also incorporate a stop at the Tahoma National Veterans' Cemetery located in Kent. Spouses are welcome. If you have anyone in another Post who may wish to join us, please let Jim Harness or Buck Weaver know as soon as possible.

Making the Meetings

While the newsletters are intended to keep the members informed of what transpires during the month and at the monthly meeting, the meetings allow you to interface with some very interesting individuals, your fellow VFW members. So carve out an hour or so and attend the meetings if you can. Remember, where else can you get a \$2.50 lunch. By the way, I now know why everyone shows up early (11:30 to 11:45). I was tied up in the office and showed up at noon to find out there were no more lunches available. Not that I was particularly fond of whatever was being served that day, but just a note to you guys that if you expect a lunch, make sure you arrive a bit on the early side.

By the way, we now have an official greeter at each meeting. Richard Marin will take over that duty at the September meeting.

Saluting the Flag

Quartermaster Liz passed this piece of information to me. A bill has been introduced and passed by the Senate that would allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag at public events, etc.. The bill still needs to pass the House and be signed into law before it becomes effective. I will keep a watch on this legislation as it works its way through the legislative process and keep you informed of its status.

MEETING DATES

VFW Post 8870 meets the second Friday of each month at the Senior Center located at 220 Railroad Ave. Edmonds, WA 98020. We welcome all veterans of foreign wars to attend our meetings. If you need any additional information, please contact our Quartermaster.



**Minutes From the August 10, 2007 Meeting
(unapproved) from Quartermaster Liz Mathers**

Prior to the meeting, a representative of the American Association for Wartime Veterans gave a presentation on the little-known VA administrated program available to veterans, their spouses and widows to help with at home, assisted living or nursing home costs known as the "Aid and Attendance Benefit." The program is underused, and perhaps hundreds of thousands of veterans could qualify for this tax free assistance. Taken into account are income, assets and medical necessity. Assets over the limit of \$80,000 may be immediately transferred into a trust with no penalty and no "look back period of time." Eligible are veterans who have had at least 90 consecutive days of service, one day of which must have been during a wartime period, who have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, and be over the age of 65. Benefits are paid directly to the veteran or to his survivor.

The meeting then opened in proper order at 1:15 with Past Commander Buck Weaver leading the post in the singing of "America the Beautiful", hand salute and the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 19 members in attendance. The roll call of officers found the Senior Vice-Commander, Chaplain, and 1st Year Trustee absent. The minutes of the July meeting and the Quartermaster's report of receipts and disbursements were approved as read.

Rock Roth accepted the position of assistant to Voice of Democracy chair Dexter Miller. Jim Collins will only assist in the judging.

Service Officer Roosevelt Ward will report to the Commander at the next meeting in regard to the ethical practices of Senior Assurance Consultants, Incorporated.

Welcoming Committee Chair Bob Crawford volunteered Richard Marin as the greeter for the September meeting.

The Quartermaster gave a report on the School of Instruction quartermaster session and learned of the correct IRS reporting requirements for the fiscal year, and also that money from the relief fund can be used for Voice of Democracy expenses. Delinquent members of the post are dropped after 2 years. The post will achieve 100% membership, however, even with the dropping of those 7 members, provided all annual members pay their dues timely.

Judge Advocate Jim Harkness reported that National By-Laws allow funds to be used from the Relief Fund, in part, "To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs."

Only 18 members signed up for the proposed bus trip to Orting and Tahoma tentatively scheduled for September 15th. The subject will be brought up at the District meeting on August 11th.

Service Officer Roosevelt Ward reported on some of the programs at the Service Officer Convention he attended in Springfield, Illinois. He stressed the importance of veterans telling their families of their military service in order to apply for benefits upon their deaths.

Jim Traner gave Commander Pounds an "unbalanced" budget for the post which will be discussed at the September meeting. The budget will be included in the September newsletter.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by voice vote that the extra expenses incurred by the Commander at the State Convention be paid from the general fund.



VFW Essay Themes for 2007-2008

Grades 9 through 12 "My Role in Honoring America's Veterans"

Grades 6 through 8 "Why I'm and American Patriot"

Grades 3 through 5 "Who is my Hero and Why"

Minutes (continued)

Historian Leroy Middleton's question about which state was the first to join the union was immediately answered by Jim Traner – Delaware.

The quartermaster read the closing prayer and the meeting was closed with a hand salute.

The Last Say

I missed mentioning VJ Day in the August issue of this newsletter. But it was almost like the rest of the nation slept through it as I normally read 3 newspapers a day plus catch the national and local news when I get home from work and saw no mention of the event. But I did want to mention that Ken Burns, the documentary film maker, is beginning a 14 hour series on the history of WWII on PBS. This film took 6 years to compile and, hopefully, this show will refocus the dedication and sacrifice this nation expended in winning the war. You can get the programming details in your local newspaper.

For you Nam vets, I was kayaking the other day and ran into a couple of young fellows on the beach putting their kayaks and gear away. In their gear was a poncho liner and I commented on it. It ends up that one guy was a naval officer on the Lincoln and the other a Sgt. In the Army. Ends up the Sgt. had purchased the poncho liner from a military surplus store and dragged it through Iraq during his tour over there. After spending a year in Nam sleeping in one myself, we compared notes about the differences in gear today vs. then. A lot of things have changed since I was in the military, but it was nice to see that nice comfy poncho liner is still a mainstay with some of the troopers over there.