



# VFW Post 8870

## Edmonds, WA

www.vfw8870.org

Duane Pounds,  
Commander

Volume 1, Issue 7  
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### Raising Bucks & Deficit Budget

The proposed budget for 2007-2008 was discussed at some length at the meeting. The bottom line (as we CPA's like to say) is that at the current projected revenue and expense levels, we will lose approximately \$500 a year. Realizing that the only people in the world that can continually lose money and stay in business is the federal government, it was decided that we would have to cover this shortfall with some fund raising activities. Included in the discussion was manning the DOT rest stops for coffee sales (Ugggggggh at 0400 hrs.) or coming up with some other innovative fund raisers. As Rock Roth reported, organizations such as the Gates Foundation do not want to issue grants to organizations to subsidize their operations. Therefore, put on your thinking caps for fund raisers. Whatever we come up with, it is necessary not only to balance the budget, but have a sufficient reserve for unanticipated expenditures.

### Advertisers

Speaking of fund raising, we are now soliciting advertising for the newsletter. These funds will go directly into the general fund and will assist with the Post operations. If you have a business (or know someone that does), please have them contact Jim Traner (425-640-8650) if they are interested in placing an ad in the next newsletter. Ads are \$10 a month.

### (Almost) A Change in Monthly Meals (But Not Quite)

After the September meeting, I immediately wrote the following article since it was fresh in my mind. However, I received an email from our Quartermaster which rescinds much, if not all, what was discussed. I decided to leave the "before article" in the newsletter and add Liz's email which explains quite clearly why we are back to the original method of paying for our meals.

#### THE BEFORE ARTICLE:

After much discussion at the September meeting (and I emphasize the word "much"), it was decided that our Quartermaster would collect our meal money and remit it to the Senior Center. In addition, and this is important, it was also decided that the members would let Quartermaster Liz know if they want to be on the "lunch list". If they indicate they are, they are then responsible for paying her for their lunch even if they do not attend the meeting. The list will be unchanged from meeting to meeting unless the member requests to be removed from the list or he or she calls or emails Liz at least one week in advance of the meeting indicating they will not be attending the forthcoming meeting. The quid pro quo to this change in policy is the fact that the members attending will have a guaranteed meal. Recently, members who arrive late do not get a meal ticket as the Senior Center runs out of food. The change in the Post's policy is because additional meals (upped from 20 to 25) will be requested and the Post is responsible to pay for these meals regardless of attendance. Rather than putting the Post on the line, it is shifting the responsibility to the membership. Hopefully I have explained this clearly. If not, contact Liz

### Buddy Poppy Time (Again)

Well, its that time of year again. Phil Sacks, Senior Vice and Poppy Chairman, passed the sign up list around at the last meeting. The Post will be "manning" 3 stores on November 9th and 10th. There were still 15 slots open after the members attending the meeting had signed up. Realizing that a lot of our members are physically incapable of standing outside for several hours at a time, it is important that those who are capable take the lead and do double duty if necessary (Richard Marin does triple duty when required). If everyone who is able pitches in, it will make the work that much easier on everyone. Remember, these funds go to support vets in need in our community including Post 8870 members. So contact Phil (425-741-7311) and let him know that you can help out.

and she will explain what I meant to convey to you. In addition to the "guaranteed" meal policy change, it was recommended that the meal cost be increased to \$3 a meal (from the current \$2.50 cost). Again, much discussion ensued with the consensus that the \$3 was "recommended" but not mandatory. So if you can afford the \$3, the Post would appreciate the extra 50 cents. In addition, a number of members indicated they would just prefer to prepay their meals for a period of time. If you are interested, see the Quartermaster. Not a bad idea, since I often forget to pilfer my wife's purse in the morning before our meeting to scrounge up the necessary funds for lunch.

#### THE "AFTER" ARTICLE:

Quartermaster Liz then responds: Ferrell Fleming, the administrator of the Edmonds Senior Center, after prior experience with separate payments for reserved lunch vouchers for the VFW, does not feel it's in the best interest of the Senior Nutrition Program and Senior Center, to have the VFW manage the lunch payments as it's too cumbersome and confusing for all involved, including VFW members who are used to signing up in the cafeteria when they arrive for lunch. (continued on Page 5)



## **Minutes From the September 14, 2007 Meeting (unapproved) from Quartermaster Liz Mather**

The meeting opened in proper order at 12:40 p.m. with Buck Weaver leading the post in the singing of "America", the Pledge of Allegiance and flag salute. Chaplain Ed Gray read the opening prayer. Rock Roth introduced his brother-law, Don DeVries, a potential member of the post. There were no new applications to be read. There were 27 members in attendance. The roll call of officers found the Service Officer, Officer of the Day and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Trustee absent. Also absent was the assigned greeter for the September meeting.

Acting Officer of the Day John Casapiedra draped the charter in memory of Ray Olsen who had passed on recently. Chaplain Ed Gray said the memorial prayer, which was followed by a moment of silence.

The minutes of the August meeting and the Quartermaster's report for the month of August were approved as read.

Newsletter editor Jim Traner provided extra copies of the September newsletter for those not on the email listing or the mail listing. Duane Pounds reported that John Broderick was delighted to receive a copy of the newsletter at the nursing home where he is recovering. Jim Traner was applauded for the excellent work he is doing on the newsletter.

Chairman Dexter Miller gave a report on the ongoing Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Penn essay programs. Assistant Chairman Rock Roth encouraged members to involve their grandchildren who may be in middle or high school to get involved in the programs, and also to get the word out to friends and neighbors. Applications are available.

Grants Chairman Rock Roth reported that his contacts with various establishments for possible grant money was ongoing, however, the post must be very specific in how the money would be used, and funding for the operation of the post would not meet the requirements.

After discussion on the bus trip to Orting and Tahoma Cemetery, it was decided that the group would travel by vans on Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup>. A sign up list was passed around and confirmation calls would be made to Jim Harkness.

Poppy Chairman Phil Sacks reported that the post will be giving out poppies for Veterans' Day at three markets, QFC, Safeway and Tops Market on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. He urged everyone to sign up for as many shifts as possible, as there always are some shifts that go vacant, and that gives him "agita".

He also noted that November 9<sup>th</sup> is the second Friday of the month, and our usual meeting date will need to be changed.

Budget Chairman Jim Traner submitted a report on the 2007-2008 Operating Fund budget and said that after going over the actual numbers for the last 2 years and extrapolating those figures into the projected budget, that there is a deficit of \$513. Given the same yearly income and expenses, in about 3 ½ years, the post will be broke. A donation figure was not included in the projected budget, as it is impossible to predict. Last year, donation requests were sent out to all the members of the post. The single biggest disbursement is for conference expenses. A figure for fund raising was also not included in the budget.

There was discussion on fund raising at the Smokey Point rest stop. Travelers donate money for coffee that is given out by a two man crew over a 48 hour period of time. Duane Pounds will look into what dates are available and report the results at the October meeting. John Casapiedra will assist the Commander.



**(Continued) Minutes From the September 14, 2007 Meeting  
(unapproved) from Quartermaster Liz Mather**

Jim Traner reported that he knows other posts put ads in their newsletters, and that he has sold 3 ads for inclusion in the post 8870 newsletter, which will result in \$120 from that source going into the general fund.

He urged the members to attempt to get other businesses to put ads in the newsletter.

As there were insufficient lunches provided by Senior Nutrition for all the post members who wanted to eat before the meeting, a motion was made, after discussion, that members sign up on a permanent lunch list at the cost of \$2.50 to be paid to the Quartermaster, and be liable for that cost whether or not they make it to the meetings. Members may remove themselves from that list by notifying the Quartermaster. The motion was seconded and carried.

Hospitality Chairman Bob Crawford designated Rock Roth as the greeter for the October meeting.

Commander Duane Pounds announced that he has been accepted in the Sons of the American Revolution. He has a relative that crossed the Delaware River with George Washington.

The Quartermaster reported that Cathy McNulty, the Program Director at the Senior Center requested that the post replace the flag at the center, as the one being flown is ragged and worn. Buck Weaver will donate a flag to the Center and get it to Cathy McNulty as early as the following Monday.

Historian Leroy Middleton posed the question – During the war in China in the 1900's, known as the Boxer War, what did the Chinese call themselves. The Harmonious Fists. They tried to rid the country of all Americans, Japanese, and other nationalities that they called "foreign devils".

The meeting closed with a prayer delivered by Chaplain Ed Gray and a hand salute.

**Bus Trip to Orting and Tahoma Cemetery—Reported by Liz Mathers**

On Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, members of Posts 8870, 1140 and 921, spouses, friends and Kiwanis guests of Buck Weaver boarded a climate controlled, reclining seat, rest room facility equipped bus at 9:30 a.m. on our way to Orting Soldiers Home and Tahoma National Cemetery. Jim and Dorothy Harkness were the bus hosts - Jim dealing with occupancy details and Dorothy expertly keeping her balance while doling out coffee, fruit juice, bananas, and breakfast pastries, despite the bus sometimes lurching on turns.

Upon arrival at Orting, Eileen Gallagher and Shauna Rongen, recreational therapists, boarded the bus and took us on a tour of the facilities, some of which were the recreation hall, commissary, hobby shop, a fish stocked pond, 3 hole golf course, 2 baseball fields, horseshoe pits, chapel, a 4 acre cemetery, American Legion Post 167 whose president resides at Orting, an enclosed outdoor area at the Alzheimer's Unit, and Betsy Ross Hall, a domiciliary unit for women. In particular, Post 8870 was pleased to see the covered recreational area that is used for most outdoor events, which was built with funds donated by the post. Built in 1891 to house Civil War veterans, Orting has seen many additions and renovations of buildings over time. In particular, Garfield Barracks, vacated, but now undergoing extensive renovations, will be the T.B.I. Unit – traumatic brain injury - for returning Iraq War veterans. Mary Prentiss, Administrator at Orting, welcomed the group, as well as John Lee, Director of Washington State Veterans Affairs, who was coincidentally at Orting that day for a meeting on the Garfield Barracks renovations.

(continued on Page 5)



**VFW Essay Themes for 2007-2008**

**Commander Pounds—Now a Son of  
the American Revolution**

Commander Pounds was informed as to his approval to the "The National Society, Sons of the American Revolution". Congratulations to Duane and, particularly, to his relative for fighting on our behalf. According to Commander Pounds, his relative was with George Washington at the crossing of the Delaware. Since this particular engagement was crucial to swaying public opinion to continue to support the revolution, we are particularly thankful to anyone who participated in this battle.

**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.

**And Now a Word from Our Advertisers**

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**Bus Trip to Orting and Tahoma Cemetery—by Liz Mather (continued from page 3)**

After lunch in the recreation hall, the group departed for Tahoma Cemetery, where we were greeted by Tom Yokes, a retired C.P.O of the Coast Guard, and who is the foreman at the cemetery. There were funerals in progress when the bus arrived, but Tom took the time to take us on a tour. There are casket burial sites with upright granite markers, garden niche sites with flat granite markers and columbarium niches which usually accommodate two urns. Local high school students donate and place flags on the graves on Memorial Day, and volunteers come out to perform the military honors at the funerals, which average about 9 a day, or about 2,000 a year. There is estimated space at Tahoma for the next 25 years.

A bit weary but enthusiastic about the trip, we arrived back at the Senior Center at around 4:30, where all 32 of us departed the bus. Or was it 33? 34? Let's hope the elusive phantom riders found their way home safely!

**(Almost a) Change in Monthly Meals (Continued from page one)**

Because the Senior Nutrition Program is on a very tight budget, and because the cost of lunches is twice the amount collected, they require that the Center give them an estimate of the number of lunches that may be need on a given day, which sometimes may not be enough for all to be provided a lunch. The Center, on the other hand, does not like to see anyone coming in for lunch not being served.

After discussion with Ferrell about the problem, it was decided that the Center will order 30 additional lunches on the VFW meeting days, and that there will be a separate sign in sheet for VFW members in order to keep track of how many lunches are actually used and paid for.

The motion for permanent lunch reservations that was carried at the Sept. meeting will need to be re-addressed at the October meeting.

**The Last Say**

I am reminded in every meeting of the vast amount of experience sitting around the room. Every topic that is brought forth on the agenda and discussed, is thoroughly analyzed with cogent points being made from those who oppose or support the topic at hand. In the end, when the question is asked, more often than not, the vote is unanimous (with the exception of Phil). And it is not unanimous because a lot of guys are indifferent, it is unanimous because if, and when, the Post moves forward with an issue, everyone is generally in solid support of it. To bad Congress, the Legislature, or the City Council can't perform in the same manner.