



**VFW Post 8870**  
**Edmonds, WA**  
[www.vfw8870.org](http://www.vfw8870.org)

**Duane Pounds,**  
**Commander**

Volume I, Issue 8  
November 1, 2007

### **November Meeting Date Changed**

The Post has decided to move the November meeting to the third Friday in November. In the past, and again this year, our Poppy fund raising drive for Veteran's Day has coincided on the same date as the Post meeting. In order to avoid this conflict, it was unanimously voted to move the November meeting to November 16th. The location and time will remain the same—the Senior Center at 11:30 for lunch with the meeting commencing at 12:30. Please note that this is a permanent change and the motion still needs approval from District.

### **Post (and Quartermaster Liz) Receives Kudos from District Auditor**

The Post and the Auxiliary were audited by District and State representatives before the meeting commenced in October. The report given by the auditors stated that Post 8870, and Liz Mather in particular, received high marks for the quality and completeness of our records and procedures. In comparison with other Posts, we are the top of the list which is the result of Liz's hard work and thoroughness.

### **Donations & Fund Raising from Members Requested**

A letter requesting donations will be mailed to all members of Post 8870 along with a copy of this newsletter. A review of the operating budget shows a continuing deficit in the Post's financial statements. In order to continue operations and participate in District and State events, it will be necessary to increase the fund raising efforts in addition to requesting donations from the membership. The Post is attempting to secure the Smokey Point rest stop coffee stand for several weekends. If each member were to give at least a \$10 tax deductible contribution to the Post, it would go a long way to insuring the financial stability of the Post. Remember, this Post exists for your benefit so in essence, you are giving the money to yourself.

### **So Did Your Service Records Burn Up?**

Roosevelt Ward gave an excellent presentation to the Post at the last meeting about the St. Louis Fire in 1973. Military records were destroyed when the National Archives and Records Administration depository went up in flames during that blaze. (Didn't anyone in that outfit hear about that new invention called a fire suppression system?) Anyway, if you were in the Army between 11/1/12 to 12/31/59, or in the Air Force from 9/25/47 to 12/31/63, your records may have been destroyed. As Roosevelt pointed out, however, duplicates of those records may exist with other organizations such as the Veterans Administration. His suggestion was to making sure you have copies of your important documents, e.g. DD 214's. If you need assistance in this area, give Roosevelt a call.

### **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 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.

### **Put Your Name on the Email List & Receive a Monthly Newsletter**

Every month we put out a newsletter for the benefit of the membership. Heck, its not professional, but we try to pass along what goes on at the meetings and keep you informed as to the happenings as best as we can. Since your lowly editor is still employed (fortunately self-employed or I'd get fired for doing this on company time), it won't always be timely, but I do hope it's informative. Unfortunately, the Post budget doesn't allow the newsletter to be mailed out monthly. However, due to technology, we email the letter to those members who have provided us with email addresses. So if you'd like to get a monthly newsletter and can't get to the meetings to pick up a hard copy, just send me a request to be added to the list. My email is [jtraner@tranersmith.com](mailto:jtraner@tranersmith.com). Make sure you put "VFW Newsletter" on the subject line so I can pick your email out of the hordes of junk mail that show up each day. If you'd like a hard copy, I have them at the meeting or available at my office at 110 James St., Suite 106 in Edmonds, WA 98020. If you have a special situation, just drop a line to me (Jim Traner), and I'll see that you get a copy.



## **Minutes From the October 12, 2007 Meeting (unapproved) from Quartermaster Liz Mather**

The meeting opened in proper order at 12:35 with a prayer read by Acting Chaplain Jim Braun, flag salute and the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 23 members in attendance. Guests were District One Commander Ron Haley and Snohomish Post 921 Commander Elmer Johnson who had earlier completed the annual post inspection report with the Quartermaster. There were no new applications for membership. The roll call of officers found the Chaplain, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee absent. John Nutting was applauded by the post for his return to 8870.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as corrected. The Quartermaster's report for the month of September was approved. Commander Pounds urged all annual members to get their dues payments in to National as soon as possible before the end of the year in order for the post to achieve 100% in membership at the Department Convention in January.

Newsletter Editor Jim Traner made a motion that the post send a letter to all post members, as had been done last year, at a cost of approximately \$50, together with a copy of the newsletter, requesting donations to the general operating fund. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

A motion was made that a Post Review Committee be formed whose responsibilities shall be to review all new applications, the applicant's eligibility for membership in the VFW by the submission of a DD-214 or other documentation, and its recommendation to the post for approval or rejection of the application. Rock Roth, Bob Crawford and John Casapiedra had been contacted earlier, and had accepted the responsibilities of this committee. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Voice of Democracy chair Dexter Miller and assistant Rock Roth reported that with only one week left before the deadline, no essays had been submitted. It was suggested that next year the schools be contacted early in the spring about the program, as September, and the beginning of a new school year is a very busy time for teachers and principals and the essay contest is viewed as yet another requirement to be met. The committee will do whatever is necessary to meet the essay deadline this year.

Service Officer Roosevelt Ward gave his report on the ongoing work he is doing for veterans and thanked the post for retaining him in his position of Service Officer. He urged once again for veterans to apply for benefits that have been set aside for them, whether it be for assistance for schooling, starting a business, or for the Aid and Attendance program for in home or nursing home care. He also emphasized the need for veterans to complete the necessary paper work in advance in order to apply for benefits that may be due them or their survivors.

District Commander Ron Haley gave the post packages of musical greeting cards which were donated by Hallmark that the post could include in care packages for servicemen overseas, at VA hospitals or nursing homes or vets at home. This is a part of the Military Assistance Program, which is a national VFW program, established about 3 years ago.

A motion was made by Poppy Chairman Phil Sacks that the by-laws be amended to indicate that the November meetings every year be changed to the third Friday in November, as the second Friday always interferes with Veterans Day and the Buddy Poppy program. The motion was seconded and carried. Commander Ron Haley, however, advised that an amendment to the by-laws was not necessary. A letter to Department is all that is required. The Quartermaster will send Department a letter to that effect. The Quartermaster will also send a letter to all the regular meeting attendees of the change in this November's meeting, and all subsequent November meetings.



**(Continued) Minutes From the October 12, 2007 Meeting  
(unapproved) from Quartermaster Liz Mather**

Poppy Chairman Phil Sacks urged the membership to sign up for double shifts, if at all possible, as there are still some time slots left open. This year, the VFW will be at Top Markets at 175<sup>th</sup> in Shoreline, as well as the regular food markets. Phil thanks Julie Pounds and the Auxiliary for giving up the Shoreline site for the post to use. The Auxiliary will be stationed at Central Market. Phil Sacks reported that the Board of the Newcomers Club of Seattle has voted to contribute \$250 to the Post Relief Fund as a result of a letter submitted by the Quartermaster, a member of the club. Presentation of the check will probably be made at the December VFW meeting.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed with a prayer by acting Chaplain Jim Braun and a flag salute.

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**MEETING DATES**

VFW Post 8870 meets the second Friday of each month (except November which is the third Friday) 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.

**The Last Say**

Veterans Day is almost here and I wonder how many of our citizens today actually know the origins or the meaning of the day. I think for most people, it is a day off, a day without mail, or a day when you can't go to the bank. Heck, it even is being recognized on November 12th. Is it just me, or do you feel this has become just another watered down day like Presidents Day? In Canada, there are two minutes of silence at 11AM on November 11th. Everyone stops—in grocery stores, at sporting events, wherever they are in silent tribute to their veterans who have served in harms way. I think this year there will be more recognition in the U.S. than in the past as the war in the middle east moves into the fifth year. Let us hope so and let us hope that recognition translates into this country taking care of those veterans who have given more than their fair share in the service of their country.