

Upcoming Events Calendar 2010-11

Please take time to review the calendar and if there are additions that are necessary, please contact the Quartermaster at quartermaster@vfw8870.org or call Elizabeth Mather at 425-672-0279.

January 8th	District I meeting at 12:00PM—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
January 11th	Board Meeting—Traner’s office—110 James St., Edmonds, WA (0915 hrs.)
January 14th	Post Meeting—South Snohomish Senior Center—Lunch 11:30; Meeting 12:30 (Post Inspection)
January 21st-22nd	Mid-Winter Convention—Yakima
March 1st	Scout of the Year entries due to Post
March 12th	District I meeting at 12:00PM—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
May 14th	District I meeting at 12:00PM—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
May 27th-28th	Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Fund Raiser—See Bob Crawford for details
May 31st	Memorial Day Ceremonies—Edmonds Cemetery
June 22nd - 25th	State Convention—Yakima

Post Dues Reminder

It’s time to pay your dues. If you haven’t, please do. If you’re having difficulty coming up with the funds, let us know. We will gladly help out in hardship situations. Also, consider a life membership. We have provided details in this newspaper on how to become a life member. It’s a smart move.

Up-Coming Meeting

Voice of Democracy Winner

Patriots Pen Winner

Middle School Teacher of the Year

Stump the Chumps—If you know how the town of Restil (home of the State of WA Veterans Home) was named, or where the “Rule of Thumb” originated, you may want to test your knowledge against our trivia king, Leroy Middleton at the next meeting. Beware, he normally stumps the chumps. See you at the next meeting and see how your trivia knowledge rates.

Post’s Middle Teacher of the Year Selected Teacher of the Year for Department

Ruth Bricks was selected as the Post’s middle school teacher of the year. We have just been informed that she has also been selected as the Department of Washington’s middle school teacher of the year and is now in competition at the National level. Ruth will be recognized at the Post’s January meeting as well as Midwinter Conference in Yakima.

Gift Cards delivered to Veterans Homes



Elizabeth Mather, Phil Sacks, and Tom Hallums shown with Superintendent David Pettijohn visited Orting while Morgan Dotson and Ray Ault delivered gift cards to Restil. The cards will be allocated by the staff at those facilities to the most needy residents. We are glad to support these individual veterans who are in need of our assistance. We also need to thank those Post members who made the long trip to both of these facilities. Remember that this is the benefit of pulling shifts for Buddy Poppies as this is the sole source of funds to assist these vets.

Mike Reagan Recognized in the Congressional Record

Post member Jim Adams has been instrumental in having the work of Mike Reagan and the Fallen Heroes Portrait Foundation be recognized officially. He contacted Congressman Jay Inslee and provided him with a report of Mike's accomplishments. After reviewing the information, Congressman Inslee recognized Mike's work in assisting the families of KIA's in the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF MICHAEL REAGAN, AN ARTIST AND VIETNAM WAR VETERAN FROM EDMONDS, WASHINGTON

HON. JAY INSLEE
of Washington
in the House of Representatives
Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, all members of this body and indeed all Americans are united in the high esteem we have for the men and women of our Armed Forces who have given their lives in service to our country.

A constituent of mine provides a grand example in this regard. Mr. Michael Reagan, a portrait artist residing in Edmonds, Washington, a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, and a member of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, has committed himself to providing surviving families with hand-drawn portraits of every man or woman killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. To date, Mr. Reagan has completed over 2,400 portraits of service members.

These portraits make a difference. A wife of a fallen Marine wrote to Mr. Reagan, "I sit in the living room every day looking at the portrait you drew . . . It just brings me a little bit of peace because I feel like he's right there with me."

In honoring the dead and comforting the living, Mr. Reagan helps the families to hold their loved ones in their hearts forever and helps assure that our Nation will never forget the service they gave and the sacrifice they made. I believe we should reflect on Mr. Reagan's contribution and ask ourselves how we, too can continue to honor the brave men and women of our Armed Forces.

Post Recognizes Hero

Duane Innes, a Boeing engineer, was driving on I-5 when he noticed a car weaving in front of him. As he pulled along side of the car, it was apparent the driver was incapacitated with a medical emergency. Unfortunately, the driver had his foot on the gas, and it was only a matter of time before a serious accident would occur. Mr. Innes alertly pulled his car in front of the car and slowed down allowing the other car to contact his rear bumper. He brought the car to a safe halt. We are recognizing Mr. Innes for his quick action and hope to have him at a future meeting.

Post Dues Are Still A Deal

The new dues year has started. If you have not paid your dues yet, please do so as soon as possible. Our dues are still \$25.00 per annum. You can mail your dues directly to National HQ. Of course mailing to the Post will also work.

This could be a good time to consider becoming a Life Member. Over your lifetime you would probably save money by converting to life. As an example: a 25-year-old member would expect to live until age 75. At \$25.00 a year he would pay \$1,250.00 in yearly dues. (We know that the annual dues will go up over the time frame of 50 years.) If this same 25-year old member would convert to life membership it would only cost him \$425.00 as a onetime payment. This is a saving of \$ 825.00 over his or her lifetime. There is also a monthly payment plan available from National HQ. See the chart below for your particular age. The deal may even be better.

Age	One-Time Payment	Installment Payment
18-30	\$425.00	\$38.64
31-40	\$410.00	\$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$20.45
81 and over	\$170.00	\$15.45

Payment Plan Terms & Conditions The VFW Life Membership installment plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a Life Membership by making either installments after an initial payment of \$35. The member will be issued a "Provisional Life" membership card and can elect, upon receipt of first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The applicable Life Membership fee is to be determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on Dec. 31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement.

Auxiliary President Julie Pounds Recovering (as is Duane).

Julie Pounds is recovering from several fractured vertebrae. It has been a hard go for the Pounds family as Duane was hospitalized for congestive heart failure while visiting Julie at Northwest Hospital. They both ended up spending several days under the same roof only in different wards. We wish the best to both of them.

Post Passes Inspection

Quartermaster Liz Mather and the Post got an A+ from our Inspector on the recent Post audit. We knew it, but now District One does, too.

Joint American Legion and Post Christmas Dinner a Great Event



The picture above proves that my Blackberry phone camera isn't ready for prime-time. However, I did want to show everyone the great turnout we had for the Christmas dinner at the Legion Hall. The kids were the real winners of the party hosted by the American Legion. Everyone brought plenty of toys and food which were turned over to the Food Bank. The 60 or so folks that attended were treated with a fantastic dinner. Our Post had 16 members attending although a number of us are both Legion and VFW members. American Legion Commander Duane Pounds made us all welcome. So did you miss it? Bummer. It was a great event. It is important that all the veteran's organizations work closely together in our community and we appreciate the American Legion hosting the dinner.

Jim Harkness—December's Speaker

It was fitting to have long-time Post member Jim Harkness as our speaker in December. In December 1944, Jim was a participant in the Battle of the Bulge. Jim had some great stories, mostly Army screw-ups that we (at least we who are Army vets can identify with). Along with spending a long night hiding in a coal bin in the basement of a house which the Germans decided would be a great command post, Jim dodged the bullets, so to speak, and came home in one piece. Our members have some great stories to pass on to the other members of our Post, particularly we "younger" ones (don't snicker Afghan and Iraqi Vets) vets—it's all rela-

Post Members Participate in Christmas Parade



Members of VFW Post # 8870 served as the honor guard for the Annual International Christmas Parade sponsored by King's Schools in Shoreline. The parade was held on December 8, 2010. The theme for this annual event is, "Bringing joy and purpose to the lives of seniors". The parade route was designed so that the residents of the Cristwood Nursing Center could watch the students as they marched and sang songs to them. A large group of residents of the nursing facility braved the cool weather and gathered in front of the Center to observe, first hand, the proceedings.

John Casapiedra and Harry Miller, both of whom wore their service uniforms, carried the colors and led the marchers. John, who is a Navy veteran, served in Southeast Asia, and he resides in Shoreline. Harry served in the Army during WW II and the Korean War. After being discharged from the Army, he joined the Air Force and served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. Harry is a resident of Edmonds.

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The Last Word

2010 was a tough year for me. I lost two WWII veterans, a tech sergeant and a 1st Lieutenant. My father and my mother. We will lose a lot more of our WWII veterans in the next few years, but we will never forget the sacrifices they made when their time came to serve. As a Vietnam vet, I grew up respecting those who did service for our country and I have never lost that respect over the years, in fact, it grew when I found out how hard those sacrifices really were. I'm looking forward to 2011. We have a great Post and great members. In my opinion, I believe we are one of the best Posts in VFW. However, we have some goals to achieve. First, we need to get our younger members more involved. I know I sat in the back row for many years before I finally stepped up. So don't wait for the call. It doesn't work that way—we have a ton of missions to accomplish and jobs enough for everyone. The WWII vets stepped up and did their jobs, now is the time for the younger vets to do theirs. Second, membership is vital. Without numbers, veterans' organizations will be ignored in Congress. If you haven't noticed, Congress is where the money is. So if you want veterans' issues to be addressed by Congress, join the VFW and the American Legion and get involved at the Post level.