



VFW Post 8870

Edmonds, WA
www.vfw8870.org
Jim Traner, Editor

VFW Post 8870

Volume 3, Issue 2
February 1, 2009

Post to Vote on Consolidation with the Clinton Post

Everyone should have received a letter from Commander Pounds notifying you of a vote of the members present at the next meeting to consolidate our Post with Post 7482 located in Clinton. Commander Bob Gabelein spoke at our January meeting and stated the reasons for terminating the Clinton post including lack of participation of the members (only 3 members currently attend meetings) and the fact they were looking to become part of a smaller Post in District One. In a meeting with Commander Gabelein and our Post officers, it was agreed to retain our Post's number and name following the consolidation. In addition, the officers of the Post will remain in their current positions although it would be beneficial to have Commander Gabelein or his representative to be present at our board meetings. If a positive vote is made at the next meeting, the State Commander will be notified and the process of having a joint meeting to confirm the above agreement between the two Posts would be announced.

Potluck Dinner—Feb. 22

The Post and the American Legion are planning a social function on Sunday, 2/22 at 2:30 PM at the American Legion Hall on 6th & Dayton. Somehow at the meeting, your editor (who knows nothing about planning social functions) was nominated to put an article in the newsletter regarding who was to bring what. The Post will provide hot dogs and hamburgers and beverages (if you want something stronger than water, coffee or soda it's a BYOB) so here's a list depending on where your last name hits in the alphabet:

- A-F Chips, dips, and veggie trays
- G-L Salads
- M-R Hot dishes (baked bean, lasagna, etc.)
- S-Z Deserts

This is a social function—bring your wives and your kids (ok—grandkids) if you'd like. The veterans from the college as well as the Clinton Post are also invited.

Speaker Schedule

Speakers for the next several months are:

February—Elaine Bott—Medicare Advantage and Part D
Fred Apgar is doing a great job in arranging speakers for our monthly meetings. If you have anyone who you think would make an interesting speaker for our meetings, pass the word along to Fred.

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.

Food Drive

Remember to bring non-perishable food items to the meeting. Phil Sacks and his wife will make sure they are delivered to the Edmonds Food Bank.

December's Speaker



Mr. Per Oscarsson was the December's program. Mr. Oscarsson is an attorney with the Beresford Booth law firm on 3rd Avenue in downtown Edmonds. The topic was estate planning which includes insuring your wills are up to date as well as medical directives, etc. The offer was made by the speaker that anyone from our Post would receive a discount. It is always nice to have our service recognized and rewarded. Mr. Oscarsson's phone number is 425-776-4100 and his email address is pero@beresfordlaw.com if you wish to contact him. Just as an aside although I have mentioned it on several occasions, make sure your family knows where your DD214 is located. I have two instances in the past few months where a death has occurred and the family had to search for the document in order to obtain funeral benefits. If you can't find your copy, you can order a new one from the DOD.



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And Now a Word from Our Advertisers

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Change in Method of Purchasing Lunches—Update

As most of you now know, the Senior Center has requested that our Post buy a block of lunch tickets rather than having each individual member pay at the door. In a nutshell, that means the post will have to anticipate the number of lunches the Post will be served, pre-buy the lunches, and any shortfalls or excesses will be incurred by us, not the Senior Center. At the last meeting, the Post purchased 35 meals and 21 were reimbursed leaving the Post in the hole \$35. At the next meeting, the meal order will be decreased and it was recommended that an additional donation of 50 cents be made by those members that can afford it. As an aside, we will keep approximately 5 tickets in reserve until noon so that guests and speakers can be assured of having a meal.

So throw 3 bucks into the VFW collection can when you buy lunch.

The Last Word

As I move into my tax season (I'm a CPA in my real life), this newsletter will get shorter and shorter. However, I welcome any articles or news worthy information anyone is willing to provide. Or just drop me an email with a short thought and I will try to fill it out.

Hopefully a lot of you can attend the function at the Legion Hall on Feb. 22nd. It is very difficult to get around and speak to every one who attends the monthly lunch meetings. This is also an opportunity to meet and socialize with the spouses of the members. So put the date on your calendar and we will look forward to seeing you there.

One final note, a number of us attended the District 1 meeting in January. Mike Reagan was given an opportunity to discuss his Fallen Warriors project. As a result of that presentation, it appears Mike will be on the agenda at the State meeting in June. There is no reason why every Post in this state can't provide some level of support for this worthy project.

**VFW Post 8870 Minutes from January 9, 2009 Meeting**

Prior to the opening of the meeting, Chaplain Ed Gray said a prayer for the POW/MIA's while Officer of the Day John Casapiedra draped a vacant chair back in their honor.

Fred Apgar introduced Per Oscarsson, an attorney with Beresford-Booth, a law firm in Edmonds, who spoke on the topic of estate planning.

The meeting opened in proper order with a prayer delivered by Chaplain Ed Gray, the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "God Bless America" led by Buck Weaver. There were 26 members in attendance.

Commander Duane Pounds introduced Clinton Post 7482 Commander Bob Gabelien. Bob stated that Post 7482 voted unanimously at their last meeting to consolidate their post with Post 8870. In attendance at that meeting were WA State Adjutant Ed Rasmussen and District One Commander Don Williams. There are 49 members in Post 7482, 42 of whom are Life Members. There are 3 members who are active in the post. Senior Vice Commander Jim Traner stated that this consolidation was discussed at the January District One meeting and the subsequent procedure is to be followed: All members of Post 8870 will receive a written notice at least 20 days before the formal vote on consolidation is to be made. Each post must provide the other with its list of assets and liabilities. At the February meeting, a favorable vote by two-thirds of the members present would be necessary to continue with the consolidation. At that point, WA State would be notified, and a joint meeting of the posts set up by State. It was established that Post 8870's name will not change. The officers will remain the same. An additional Service Officer and an additional Trustee would be appointed in Clinton so that autonomy would be retained in that community to continue programs already in place. In order to expedite the necessary paper work, State Adjutant Ed Rasmussen requested that a straw poll or a non-binding advisory vote be taken at the January meeting to establish if the post would be in favor of consolidation with Post 7482. A motion to that effect was made by Dexter Miller, seconded by Bob Crawford, and after discussion, carried unanimously.

The roll call of officers found the 1st Year Trustee absent. A motion to accept the December 2008 minutes as published in the newsletter was made, seconded and carried. The Quartermaster's Report for the month of December was accepted as read. Surgeon Al Boyett read the Hospital and Community Service Reports and when questioned whether phone calls to members in hospitals and nursing homes are included in reports, replied in the affirmative.

Senior Vice Commander Jim Traner advised that a mid-winter social is to be held on Sunday, February 22nd at 2:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 6th and Dayton in Edmonds. The Veterans Group from Edmonds Community College and members of the Clinton Post will be invited. The affair will be a pot luck, with hot dogs and hamburgers cooked in the kitchen.

New member Joe Flanik, a student at Edmonds Community College majoring in computer networking and a member of the Washington National Guard, told the post of his service in the military. He was presented with a Post 8870 cap and a Cross of Malta lapel pin, and was warmly welcomed into the post.

The Quartermaster reported that the Senior Center has established an agreement with the Post that the number of lunch orders (\$2.50 each) be placed in advance no later than one week before every meeting. A check for the total number of lunches ordered is to be made payable to the Snohomish County Senior Nutrition Program. The Post and Ladies Auxiliary will provide the Senior Center with the names of members who participate in the lunch program each month. It is the responsibility of Post and Ladies Auxiliary members who eat lunch to reimburse the post for lunch vouchers it has purchased for them in advance.

There was discussion on a 2004 rental agreement made between then Service Officer Joe Doneogen as representative of the Snohomish County Veterans Assistance Program and the Senior Center for the Center to receive a payment of \$600 for rent of a hall. As there was never any money paid from Snohomish County to Post 8870 on behalf of the Senior Center, and as the Senior Center has never billed the post for rent, and as it is the responsibility of the staff of the Senior Center to apply for any monies they may be eligible to receive from various Snohomish County Assistance Programs, the discussion was terminated.

Service Officer Roosevelt Ward gave his report on the assistance given to veterans on behalf of the post with money available to him from the post Relief Fund, and presented his written reports for the post files.

Rock Roth reported that he attended the award ceremony for Post 8870 "Teacher of the Year" winner Terry Traner and found the experience of talking to the children and hearing their sometimes "off the wall" various questions to be very rewarding. The auditorium at the school was filled to capacity.

Phil Sacks reminded members to continue to bring their food donations to meetings. They will be taken for them to the local Food Bank. Arnie Wheeler won the raffle and donated his half of the \$27 to the Post Relief Fund.

The meeting ended at 2:20 with a benediction delivered by Chaplain Ed Gray and a flag salute.