



VFW Post 8870

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

VFW Post 8870

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Post Votes on Consolidation with the Clinton Post

A unanimous vote was cast at the February meeting for Post 8870's approval to consolidate with the Clinton post. There were certain stipulations in the motion concerning leaving the Post number as 8870, the officers now serving in 8870 would finish their terms without another vote of officers taking place, and the Post's flag would remain the same. The next step in the approval process will be a joint meeting (held at our next Post meeting in March) to formally approve the consolidation. The consolidation will increase the membership of the Post approximately 60 members.

Potluck Dinner—Feb. 22



Al Boyett and Buck Weaver (Bucks always in the chow line it seems) help themselves to a great potluck dinner held at the American Legion hall on a Sunday afternoon. I'm not quite certain why everyone didn't attend as the food was great as was the camaraderie. We had participants from our Post, the Legion, and Post 1040. Hopefully we will get some guys from the college next time.

Speaker Schedule

The speaker for our March 13 meeting will be Donna Coleman. She works at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent and will share information about their facility as well as burial benefits available for veterans. This should be a "must" meeting for anyone who is planning on being buried at Tahoma.

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. Tie a bow around your finger to remember. So far the participation has been a bit sparse. In these times, there are a bunch of folks in this community who could use our help.

February's Speaker



Elaine Bott from Humana spoke to the Post on Medicare Advantage and Part D Medicare coverage. Humana is new to this area Ms. Bott gave a good talk on comparing prices for Part D coverage and urged everyone to review their coverage for both coverage and pricing. If anyone is interesting in contacting her, her number is 425-238-0602. Just as an aside, Fred Apgar is doing a great job in getting speakers who are interesting and informative to our membership.

Poppy Signup Sheet

Phil Sacks is trying to get an idea of how many members will be available on Memorial Day weekend for Buddy Poppies. If we can get enough volunteers we can expand our coverage to a couple of other stores and increase our fund raising. If you can't make the next couple of meetings, give Phil a heads up that you can help out.



Boy Scouts Seek Assistance



Life Scout Joe Downing makes a presentation to the Post for monetary assistance in placing 5 flag poles at the Veterans Park located in Lynnwood. Flown from the flag poles would be the flags of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard. Phil Sacks questioned why the Merchant Marines were not given a flag pole and apparently the Lynnwood City Council would only authorize 5 flag poles. Currently flying at the park are the American flag and the POW/MIA flag. After the meeting was over, the board authorized \$200 for the project which was within the miscellaneous line item of the budget. The scouts will buy the flag poles and actually have a work party in raising them. Of course our members chimed in with engineering assistance and recommendations although the scouts probably have this figured out. However, Joe was gracious in receiving the comments. Good luck Joe in your project.

Nominating Committee at Work

The nominating committee headed up by Buck Weaver is putting together a slate of names for the March meeting. If you have any input for "Old Buck", let him know.

Phil Sacks Moving Day Sale

Phil is getting ready to move and needs to sell his shop tools.

- 10 inch table saw belt drive 120/240 motor on stand with accessories \$150
- 10 inch radial arm saw. On cabinet with wheels \$150
- 12 inch band saw. Tilting head, table remains stationary providing excellent stability, 12 inch throat capacity. On stand with wheels, some band saw blades \$130
- Air compressor 5hp 15 gallon tank, 240 volt motor \$120
- Car ramps—free

Phil has also been storing signs, tables, etc. for the Poppy fund raisers. He needs to get this stuff out of his garage so if anyone has room to store the items, let Phil know. If not, we may have to spring for some storage somewhere.

Surgeon Al Boyett Receives JASON Award



Don Williams, District One Commander, presents Al Boyett with the JASON award. This award is the top award a Post Surgeon can receive for performing his job to the highest level possible. This is at least the second award that Al has received in his capacity of Surgeon and a tip of the hat to Al for a job well done.



In Memoriam—Ensign Beth Anne Mather

After graduating from Susquehanna University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business, Beth Anne reported to Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island in October 1981 and received her commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy on February 12, 1982. On arrival at the Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Sicily in March 1982, she was assigned to the Operations Department, where she was both Administrative Officer and the Commander of the Fleet Air Detachment Liaison Officer (CFAD) billets. In August 1983, she was reassigned as the Transient Line Branch Officer of the Operations Maintenance Department, while retaining the CFAD billet. She was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal in December 1982. At the time of her death on January 17, 1984, she was the "Bull Ensign" at the Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Sicily. Beth Anne is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Vehicle access to the cemetery is available only to those visiting a known grave. Passes can be requested at the Visitors Center. Beth Anne's mother, Quartermaster Liz Mather asks that if you should find yourself in Washington, D.C. that you take time to visit Arlington Cemetery. And when you do, that you take one red carnation to place on Beth Anne's grave

Minutes from the February 13, 2009 Meeting

The library doors were closed at 1245. Officer of the Day John Casapiedra draped the vacant chair set aside for POW/MIA's while Chaplain Ed Gray delivered a prayer in their remembrance.

Martin Spani, Commander, Post 1040, introduced Life Scout Joe Dowling from Boy Scout Troop 49 who told of an Eagle Scout project he, as the project coordinator, and his troop are undertaking to install 5 flag poles in Veterans Park representing the branches of the military to bring more attention to the park and the military servicemen and women who are honored there. The cost of the project is estimated at \$1,000. The board will review the post Relief Fund budget at the next board meeting and determine how much the post will contribute to this project.

Fred Apgar introduced Elaine Bott who spoke on Medicare Advantage and Part D prescription drug coverage available through Humana, and answered questions posed by the membership.

The meeting then opened with a prayer delivered by Chaplain Ed Gray, the pledge of allegiance, and the singing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" led by Buck Weaver. The roll call of officers found the Service Officer absent. There were 24 members in attendance. Guests were Don Williams, District One Commander, Martin Spani, Commander, Post 1040, Bob Gabelein, Commander, Post 7482, Elmer Johnson, Commander, Post 921, Frank Martinez, Post 1040, and Ken Casey, formerly from Post 7482 and a new applicant for membership in Post 8870.

A motion to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter was passed. The Quartermaster's report for the month of January was accepted as read.

Poppy Chairman Phil Sacks talked of the upcoming Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Drive – Friday, May 22nd and Saturday, May 23rd. At present, there are 5 markets where the post distributes poppies. If a sufficient number of members volunteer to work that weekend, then it may be possible to add two more markets. A sign up sheet was circulated asking members to indicate what day they will be able to work and if they have a market preference. Phil will coordinate the shifts when all information is received.

John Casapiedra reported that the flag that was being flown at his place of work was so ratty that he purchased a new one for them. This caused them, out of embarrassment, to buy another flag which they gave to John to give to anyone who may need a replacement. Luckily, Phil Sacks knew that the Safeway Market where the post distributes poppies was in need of a new flag, as the old one that was taken down could not be replaced.

John also talked about the Smokey Point Coffee Stop Project and the post winning a prime time weekend in the lottery - August 28, 29th and 30th – the weekend before the Labor Day weekend. Phil Sacks and John will form a committee to make up a "shopping list" of supplies needed to stock the kiosk for those three days, as most markets need a three month advance request for contributions.

Buck Weaver auctioned off a 2009 calendar depicting photos of old military airplanes that he is especially fond of. Fred Apgar won the bidding at \$12 which was donated to the post General Fund.

Surgeon Al Boyett presented the Hospital and Community Service reports to the post.

Phil Sacks made a motion that Post 7482 and Post 8870 be consolidated. Rock Roth seconded the motion. An amendment to the motion was made by Elizabeth Mather that Edmonds Post 8870's designation, its flag, its charter and its officers remain the same with no changes. Ed Gray questioned the amendment as the minutes from Post 7482 meeting of December 3, 2008 stated "that the accepting post (Post 8870) add the words 'And VFW, Post 7482, Clinton, WA' to its title." Bob Gabelein, Commander, Post 7482 stated that even though there were no further Post 7482 meetings since December 3, 2008, that Post 7482 and its members agree that no changes will be required of Post 8870 in its designation, flag, charter or its officers. The motion to consolidate Post 7482 and Post 8870 as amended was then passed by voice vote.

Jim Traner reminded the assembly of the upcoming social to be held on Sunday, February 22nd at 2:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 601 Dayton, Edmonds.

District One Commander Don Williams presented the JASON award to Surgeon Al Boyett in recognition of his submitting timely Hospital and Community Service reports throughout the year.

American Legion Commander Les Abel is attempting to determine why members of Post 8870 who are also members of the American Legion do not attend monthly meetings. Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. There are no meetings in July and August. The American Legion is reviewing whether changes to its meeting date or time will encourage attendance.

Fred Apgar won the raffle and donated his half of the \$40 collected to the post General Fund.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with a benediction delivered by Chaplain Ed Gray and a flag salute



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And Now a Word from Our Advertisers

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The Last Word

It was a pretty good social event we had on February 22nd. A number of Post members attended as did American Legion members, but a number were MIA's. What a great opportunity some folks missed. Without a meeting hall, the only time members have a chance to socialize with other members is at these type of events since the Senior Center doesn't accommodate wandering around and talking to other members. I sure would like to get your input on when you'd like another event and the time and day that works best for you. So if you couldn't make or didn't want to make it, let me know why—I'd be interested in getting your input.

On another note, we received an email from the Past Commander of Post 8946 in Woodcliff Lake, NY on our website. He had been contacted by a friend in Ostheim, France that had been liberated by the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd ID. The town was seeking assistance in finding out more information on the American KIA's (a number of men were killed) that had occurred during the battle leading to the liberation. One of the individuals was Pvt. Richard Solver who was born in Edmonds. I checked with Mayor Haakenson to see if he had any idea of where to go on this and I was referred to the Dep't of Health who maintains birth certificates for Snohomish County. Unfortunately, due to the privacy laws, I struck out there. Then I sent off an email to the Everett Herald. Somehow, sources unrevealed, they came up with a nephew of Pvt. Solver who still lives in the area. I forwarded the information on to Joe Poggi from Post 8946, who, I assumed, got the information to France. It is nice to see that a private that was killed in action in 1945 is still remembered by the town he helped to liberate. There are a lot of forgotten heroes out there. It is also interesting how connected we are to the rest of the world through the internet.