

Late Notice of VFW Picnic

There will be a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Nile Country Club picnic area on July 31. The Boy Scouts will burn old flags and afterwards VFW Post 1040, Post 8870, and the American Legion will be having a BBQ. The Nile Country Club is off of 244th Street SW and next to I-5. As you enter you will bear to the left towards Lake Ballinger. This is a good opportunity to support the Scouts and have some fun. Bring your significant others, too. All the food and drink will be provided.

Upcoming Calendar 2010-11

July 31st	Flag Retirement Ceremony and VFW BBQ—Nile Country Club 1200-1700
August 12th	Board Meeting—Traner's office—110 James St., Edmonds, WA
August 13th	Post Meeting—South Snohomish Senior Center—Lunch 11:30; Meeting 12:30
Sept. 11th	District I meeting at 12:00PM—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
September 17th-September 20th	Fund Raiser—Smokey Point Rest Area Coffee stop. Contact Jim Adams for details
November 1st	Teacher of the Year Nominations, Voice of Democracy, & Patriot's Pen entries due to Post
November 5th-6th	Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Fund Raiser—See Bob Crawford for details
November 13th	District I meeting at 12:00PM—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
January 1st	Public Servant Nominations Due—Police, Fire, and EMT personnel
January 8th	District I meeting at 12:00PM—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
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

Leading the Parade



19 members of our Post, Martin Spani and Frank Martinez from Post 040, and Elmer Johnson, past District I Commander, together with American Legion members and Vietnam Veterans of America joined in leading the parade in downtown Edmonds on the 4th of July. In addition, the Grand Marshal(s) of the parade was a veteran of each war. Representing the Post was Erv Schmidt—WWII, Phil Sacks—Korean War, and Peter Sessum—Iraq and Afghanistan war while Elizabeth Mather represented women who had served in the military. We also had Korean era Jeep, 3/4 ton, Humvee, and a 2 1/2 ton truck carrying members who couldn't (or wouldn't) walk. It was a lot of fun and, contrary to popular belief, I watched as everyone on the sidewalks rose as the American flag approached them. Afterwards, we met at the American Legion Hall where Bob Sweet, the Quartermaster and longtime member of the American Legion, barbecued hotdogs and hamburgers. We had an amazing turnout of both veterans and their families and it was fun having all the vets get together and march together. You might want to put this on your calendar for next year. If you can't make it to the parade, at least come by for the BBQ.

Erv Schmidt—July's Speaker



Erv finished his story about serving as a submariner in WWII—including sinking the last Japanese ship of the war (and a train). It is our intent to have our members pass some important personal history along to the rest of us. Erv was excellent and we appreciate him taking the time for us.

College Vets Club Thanks Post



Troy Montgomery, former President of the Edmonds Community College Vets Club and member of our Post, presented the Post with a plaque showing a picture of the Boots to Books memorial that the Vets Club erected on campus with the help from many organizations but with particular help from Post 8870. It is a moving memorial and Troy told of the mementoes and letters that vets have left at the memorial—similar to those left at the Wall. The bottom line is the memorial is achieving its purpose of providing recognition from the non-vet population of the vets coming back to school and an inspiration to the vets who are attending college. The Post does not have a permanent home so the American Legion has volunteered to place this on their wall.

New Member Inducted into Post



Former Vet Club President and one of the newest member of our Post is Charles Lavallee. Please make him welcome at the next meeting and we look forward to getting our young members involved in Post projects.

Post Recognized at State Convention



Bob Crawford, Duane Pounds, Jim Traner, Al Boyett, Elizabeth Mather, Rock Roth (a little buried in the background), and Julie Pounds show off the various awards they received from Ron Haily who picked them up at the State Convention in Vancouver, WA. Julie is holding the first place Poppy Exhibit that the Auxiliary entered into competition against all the Auxiliaries in the state. Jim is wearing his White Hat as is Elizabeth. The Post did quite well against its peers. The newsletter was rated as the best newsletter for small Posts (less than 200 members) and once we correct the method of the way we report some other activities, other members in the Post will also receive the recognition they deserve.

Proposed By-Law Changes

We have reviewed our by-laws and made some changes to them to bring them up to date and more consistent with the operations of our Post. Most of these are housekeeping in nature. For instance, there was a rather extensive section pertaining to the Post House—which we don't have. In another section there was very cumbersome procedure on check writing and approval. The Post already has good internal controls on its funds and the Trustees review disbursements and receipts on a monthly basis negating a section indicating that two trustees and the Post Commander was required to approve every disbursement. The Manual of Procedure from the VFW only requires that the Commander approve these disbursements which has been the case in our Post. You have received a notification letter that was sent to each member informing them the of a vote of the members who attend the August meeting. If any of you would like to review the revised by-law changes, please contact the Quartermaster. Once the Post has approved the revised by-laws they will be sent to Department and National for their approval.

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Change in Board Meeting Date

The August board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 12th, at 0915 hours at Jim Traner's conference room. This is a one time change only due to vacation schedules.

Upcoming Program

August—To Be Announced

Relief Fund Budget

The budget for the Relief Fund will be presented at the August meeting. The Board has approved the budget which was primarily formulated by the committee in charge of review and approval of requests for funds. Fred Apgar, Jim Adams, and Leroy Middleton comprise the committee. The Post will be presented the budget and asked to approve it. If you would like a copy of the budget, please contact the Quartermaster.

The Last Word

Elizabeth Mather and I were recently awarded "White Hats" at the state convention. If you're wondering what they are, its basically "you did a good job award". I know when I first joined VFW folks had olive hats, white hats, red hats, etc. and I never knew what the heck they were or why they got them. I mentioned at the last meeting that the Quartermaster certainly earns hers as it is a direct result of the reports produced and the timely filing of those reports. Of course the job entails a heck of a lot more than reports such as Board meeting minutes and Post meeting minutes, keeping the financial records in order, insuring that the Post has all of its bonding and insurance in place, etc. The Commander, on the other hand, is simply awarded the hat if the Post meets certain criteria, most of which is the result of the hard work of many members and committee chairs. Our Post has taken on a lot of projects this past year and done an excellent job in completing them in a timely and efficient manner. Next year hopefully we will have the same success as we have had this past year. So I wish to thank all the members for their hard work last year. I was awarded the White Hat, but the Post earned it.