

### 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](mailto:quartermaster@vfw8870.org) or call Elizabeth Mather at 425-672-0279.

Oct. 5th	Board Meeting—Traner’s office—110 James St., Edmonds, WA (0915 hrs.)
Oct. 8th	Post Meeting—South Snohomish Senior Center—Lunch 11:30; Meeting 12:30 (Post Inspection)
October 15th	Post visit to the Nisei Veterans Committee Memorial Hall—Seattle—Time to be announced
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

### Up-Coming Speakers

October: Sgt. Holmes—Washington National Guard—Services provided at veterans’ funerals  
 November: Winners of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen Awards

### Mas Odoi—September Speaker



I have to thank Fred Apgar for arranging to have Mr. Odoi speak to our group. A member of the most highly decorated unit in Army history, 442nd Combat Regiment Team. Mr. Odoi was born and raised in Mukilteo. He relayed a number of stories of growing up there and of how good the racial relations were between the various ethnic groups who lived there. When the war broke out, he was a student at the U of W and was “relocated to a internment camp in Idaho. His draft status was changed from I-A to a 4-C, the same status as an enemy alien. When he was returned to I-A status, he immediately joined the Army. He served in France and Italy. In Italy he was wounded when a mortar exploded near him. With a shrapnel wound in his throat he nearly died but made it back to an aid station and was hospitalized for the remainder of the war. He was most proud of the fact that the 442nd lead the parade in 1946 in Washington DC. The 442nd Japanese Americans had shown America that they were truly American he-

## Commander's Report on the National VFW Convention

I didn't have much room in the September newsletter to report on the National Convention so I'll do it now. Like any convention, the national convention that was recently held in Indianapolis was very interesting at times and very boring at times. Perhaps I shouldn't say that as this newsletter could fall into the wrong hands, Never the less, there were the self-serving speeches, the meaningful speeches, the long speeches, and a various category of speeches that defy easy definition. The operative word is speeches. Speeches require that the listeners sit and I am a darn poor sitter. The best speech of the entire event was the young lady who was the national winner of the Voice of Democracy contest. She was simply amazing.

There other nuggets in there that made the convention worth attending, including the host city itself. For instance, for most part of one day is spent on passing or rejecting resolutions and voting on proposed changes in the by-laws. These range from some very mundane items to some which are hotly debated. The Department of Hawaii proposed allowing membership to US Nationals rather than limiting membership to US Citizens. First, I didn't know there was a difference and second, I wasn't sure why the difference would affect joining VFW. It seems, however, that citizens of certain protectorates such as American Samoa are deemed US Nationals as opposed to being US citizens. They can quickly become US citizens but in doing so, they forfeit certain rights they have on their home island. In any event, a number of these people have served in combat with the US Military but have been denied membership in VFW. After much debate, some of it very heated, it was passed. It was interesting that the rules committee rejected this and it was only brought to the floor after the Hawaiian delegation made a procedural motion to do. It passed with an overwhelming majority in the voice vote that followed.

The Department of Washington made a proposal that was rejected by the rules committee and in a swift procedural move, denied it being brought to the floor. It basically said that if the US wished to continue combat operations around the world, the draft should be reinstated rather than sending our troops into harm's way on multiple deployments. In other words, have everyone share the risk rather than a very small number of individuals who are exposed in deployment after deployment. When the appropriate time came to appeal the decision of the rules committee, Martin Spani, Commander of Post 1040, hurried to the microphone to make a motion to bring it to the floor with me trailing behind him to second it. When we arrived at the microphone located about a 100' from us, we were told we were too late and the motion was denied. There is always next year. So in attending the National Convention, you get to see the sausage being made and that is a very interesting process.

Next year the convention will be held in San Antonio and the following year in Reno. Reno is close, cheap, and fun, so hopefully, we can have more than a few of us make it down there.

## Operation Open Arms—PTSD Fund Raising Event



This is a very poor picture (taken with my cell phone) of Ron Clyborne addressing the crowd that attended the very first fund raiser for raising awareness of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. But I wanted to make sure that Ron was recognized for this event. A couple of us made it (Ray Ault, myself, and Auxiliary member Terry Traner who happens to be my wife). Food, wine, music, and a large silent auction made for an entertaining night. More importantly, a large number of our local residents made it, although none of them needed additional awareness of PTSD and its affects to our troopers. I really want to tip my hat to Ron for all the work and effort he put into this event. It was a first class event, and I am looking forward to next year's event.

## Post to Visit Nisei Veterans Hall

Post 8870 has been invited to tour the Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall located on 12th and King St. in Seattle on October 15th. We will meet at the South Snohomish Senior Center in Edmonds at 1130 hours and carpool to Seattle. We are planning on buying sandwiches and eating on the road (except the designated drivers) so you won't go hungry. This is an opportunity to tour their facility, particularly their Hall of Honor where 21 members of the 442nd Combat Regimental Team (the most highly decorated unit in Army history and comprised entirely of Japanese Americans) are recognized for being awarded the Congressional Metal of Honor. In doing some on-line research on the Hall, the original property was purchased for \$1,000 following WWII when the VFW and American Legion shunned their membership. About 10 years ago they decided to renovate their facility and set about raising funds. They wound up raising \$2.5 million dollars. At the dedication of the new facility in 2008, members of the VFW and the American Legion were on hand. We are honored they are allowing us to tour their facility and I hope we have a great turn-out. Please email us at [quartermaster@VFW8870.org](mailto:quartermaster@VFW8870.org) and let us know if you plan to attend or call Elizabeth Mather at 425-672-0279. We will also have a signup sheet at the next meeting as we need to get an approximate count for buying food.

## Smokey Point Fund Raiser

Our major fund raiser for the Post was held on 9/17 to 9/21, We netted somewhere in the neighborhood of \$850 depending on what the exchange is on our Canadian coins. Jim Adams pretty much honchoed the affair while John Casapiendra and Phil Sacks lent their scrounging talents to secure goodies and coffee from various retailers. Top Foods on a 175th, Lake Forest Albertsons, Ballinger Thriftway, and Fred Meyer get a tip of the hat. A special thanks to Bill Morse, Commander of Post 1561 in Arlington. Bill helped set up, take down, and lent us his equipment. Thanks Bill. Also, Elmer Johnson, our Past District I Commander pulled an all-nighter by himself. That is above and beyond the call of duty and we thank him. All in all, we faired a bit better than I thought we would and Jim Adams has already come up with some good ideas for the future.

## Vets Connect with Sick Children



By Timm Lovitt, Post 8870 member

For many Americans it's hard to imagine living in a place that's far away from home, not knowing what tomorrow will bring, or even whether you will live or die. To have the comfort of a life filled with certainty striped away is very overwhelming and fear invoking for most people; however, it is almost incomprehensible to imagine it as a child. Perhaps that is why the latest VetCorps project is so important.

Recently the members of the Washington State program Veteran Corps, also known as VetCorps, partnered with the Seattle Ronald McDonald House (RMH) to sponsor a monthly movie night. On the second Friday of each month a group of six Veteran volunteers bring snacks, drinks, and a movie for the seriously ill children staying at the RMH. The Vets look to bring their experience in being away from home, facing life and death situations, and their energy to help the children break away from the daily rigors that their illnesses bring; so that these kids can once again enjoy being children.

The members of VetCorps look to turn this into a long-term commitment and possibly grow the program over the course of the next few months. Future ideas include a teddy bear give-away, pajama night, as well as possibly hosting a family dinner night. For more information on how you can help please contact the VetCorps-RMH event coordinator Timm Lovitt at [timmlovittnyc@msn.com](mailto:timmlovittnyc@msn.com).

Editors note: Members of our Post have participated at RMH. Contact Timm if you would like to help.

Phone 425-670-8912

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## The Last Word

My uncle Walter served in WWII, landing in North Africa, Sicily, and then on to Europe going through France into Germany. He was a draftee, and recently while I was looking through a photo album of my mother's, I saw a picture of Walter somewhere in France leaning against a Jeep with First Sergeant's stripes on his fatigues. As you know, you don't get those stripes easily. He served under George Patton while Patton's son was the Regimental CO of my unit in Vietnam, the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment. My Uncle Walter and I had a link that we never talked about although we both had seen our fair share of "history" with the Patton's, he more than me. When I asked him about his service, about the only thing he said was he had been a sergeant. In March of 1969, I had just been discharged and I spent a few days with Uncle Walter and Aunt Jean on Long Island. I remember that each night I spent there I was more comfortable on the floor than on his soft guest room's bed. I guess I was still in my field mode (or hard cot mode). He chuckled while my aunt was dismayed by my behavior, feeling badly that her guest bed was so uncomfortable for me. He passed away and he never shared any stories about his service. It was my loss.