

Lake Washington Veteran

All American VFW Post #2995

Phone 425 883-2995

4330 148th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

February 2010

www.vfwpost-2995.org

Super Bowl on the Big Screen TV

Sunday, February 7th

Potluck

Drink Specials – All Day

Award Winning Ritual Team Comes to Lake Washington #2995

A special invitation to all new members of VFW Post #2995
Here's your chance to be initiated into this great organization by the
National Award Winning Ritual Team.

This is truly a very moving performance and a chance to bring your entire family.
If you have already been initiated,
you are also encouraged to do it again at this time.

Monday, February 15th

Post meeting to start at 6:30pm

Initiation will begin at 7:00pm sharp

Note: Due to the 15th being President's Day, normally the Post meeting would be on the next day, however because we are privileged to have the Ritual Team on this evening, the meeting will be held on the 15th, not the 16th.

Valentine's Dinner

Saturday, February 13th

A special Italian dinner tonight

6:30 until 7:30pm

\$15.00 per person or

\$25.00 per couple

Enjoy the music of "Fever" from 7-11pm

Roses for all the ladies

You may bring your family, friends, or neighbors to the post and enjoy dinners, entertainment and games.

Remember to sign them in at the table by the front door as your guest. Share the fun.



Men's Auxiliary Dinner

Wednesday, February 17th

Menu to be determined at this time

6:00 pm

The Men's dinners have been among the best served at the Post.

You won't be disappointed

From the Commander, Dave Ritch – The Shortest Month



Ah yes, February *is* the shortest month of the year, and one that is filled with special days. We celebrate Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays, a national holiday recognizing all our Presidents, is on the calendar. A party day for Saint Valentine who shoots arrows of **LOVE!** Of course, we also have set aside a day for the little groundhog. Is he really better at forecasting the weather than our folks on TV? If he is that good, maybe he can tell us about our membership campaign!

Looking into the numbers from National, we have held our position as #3 in the Department. As I write this, we need 34 more to hit a thousand members in your Post. Just **ASK** that friend or cohort to join. For all those we have signed up recently, remember that a new Member Initiation will be conducted here at our Post on the 15th of this month. It is an 'open' house affair, so everyone

can be present. Tom Asaif has worked diligently in putting this program together. It will give all of the groups and committees within the Post an opportunity to bring in that VET and also, perhaps sign-up a VET that has not yet been asked to join our organization. If you do get another 'enlistee' into our Post, remember **MY** membership challenge reward. Quench your thirst!

Okay, as spring is just around the corner, how about getting your yard tools out and ready to help get our Post grounds looking spiffy? Pride yourself in helping in this annual effort.

For those not present for the New Years Eve party, it was really a fun and happy night. Great dinner and the music of JIGSAW kept people on the dance floor shaking the bootie! We have some great events coming up, so, stop by **YOUR** Post to keep up with the news of what's going on. You might be surprised!

Welcome New Members to #2995

Joseph Morton
Joshua Keller

Eric Tuchschrer
John Gellesbo

Justin
Dodson

Post meetings are held on the first and third Monday each month at 6:30pm with exceptions for holidays.

From the Post Home Board Chairman, Bob Nelson

It is with deep regret that I must resign my duties as Chairman and member of the Post Home Board because of my worsening medical condition. I would like to thank the members of the PHB and all of the post for their understanding and great kindness.

Last month I wrote about our slipping financial situation and asked for help from the post members. We did get some good ideas such as having more entertainment, playing the Trivia game, offering lower beer and drink specials, occasional snacks and more events. Another idea was to go after more membership in all areas.

Bob Michalak, our new Chairman of the Board along with Jake Bond Harry Ruby and I, met with a newsperson that Bob arranged. As a result, an article will be in the local papers soon telling about the VFW and the great things we do. This article is reprinted on page 7. On March 6th we will hold our first Open House for the public and it will focus on signing up new members. Signing up more and more new members should be an important step toward helping us out of our money problem.

In closing, please get behind this new direction, work together and have fun with this quest. Thanks to all for your help.

From the Chaplain Robbie Robertson



Get well wishes to Arlene Steele who was hospitalized recently and is recuperating at home.

From the Ladies Auxiliary President Diane Glenn



The Ladies Auxiliary is busy with plans for the New Year. We will have a lovely Valentine's basket to be raffled at the dinner on the 13th. We will be assisting with the Ritual happening on February 15th by providing coffee and dessert. We have planned some events for March and April, so attend

the next meeting to get an update and get involved. We will be having a special March 1st meeting to present special pins for some special ladies and will also provide a pin for all members. Our next meeting is February 1st and I hope to see all members there.

Men's Auxiliary from Ken Hand

The Men's Auxiliary will be preparing the dinner on the 17th of February. Last year, for Mardi Gras, we had Coconut Shrimp and Ham Gumbo, with salad and rolls. This year it will be up to the rank and file of the Men's Auxiliary to come up with the menu for that evening, and will help prepare and serve it too.



members, as this gives the club a large amount of experience to draw from while doing projects. I would like to see some projects and/or participation in the projects that we come up with from our ranks, plus it gives us some respect.

We welcome aboard our new member, Eric Sugg,. We are growing thanks to the other members that have taken on the task of recruiting. All of the auxiliary members should always try to recruit new

A few months ago we donated dishes to the post to use for special occasions and/or special dinners like the Marine Corps birthday dinner, All Services Ball dinner, etc. This year the auxiliary should be visible in the post activities. Hopefully we will see you at the dinner and remember, have fun, it's your post, let's make it all it can be.

From the Honor Guard Commander Paul Magat

On January 9, Saturday morning at Tahoma National Cemetery, we held a special interment and rendered military honors for our own Honor Guard member Gary Gualdoni. Mother Nature surprised us all with a sunny morning to bid farewell and honor Gary's legacy. It was difficult to keep our emotions down while performing our duties. It was a very solemn ceremony supported by the Marine Corps League, American Legion, and VFW members. We will miss Gary and his unyielding dedication to the Honor Guard and VFW Post 2995. On Wednesday, January 13, we were at Tahoma National Cemetery – *Serving Those Who Served Us*

We need reinforcements (new members) due to some current members that are not doing so well physically. We need your help in recruiting new Honor Guard members.

If you know someone who might be interested in joining the Honor Guard, please contact Paul Magat (425) 503-5616 or Karin Ridge (425) 417-6116 for more information. You can also leave a message at the post (425 883-2995) and we will call you back.



Washington

George Washington created the Purple Heart, originally the "Badge of Military Merit", in 1782.



Lincoln

"Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure."
Abraham Lincoln

Lost

If anyone found a VFW cap, please turn it in to the bartender. Harry Ruby's head is getting cold.

From the Quartermaster Dan Nelson

Greetings comrades and comradettes. As we enter into the New Year, the second half of my first term and our Fiscal year, I have good news and bad news to report to the wider membership. If you've been to the meetings, some of this you already know. If you haven't been to the meetings, whatever you've heard about anything, particularly in the canteen or from someone who heard it in the canteen, it's probably wrong.

I'd like to take a moment to report that I've spent way too much of my time this past six months trying to address questions from members who are so extremely concerned about our operations that they chase me down in the canteen or write scathing emails to me explaining where we are screwing up, but not so interested as to bother attending a meeting once or twice a month to find out what is really going on. Let me just state that the meetings are the place to find out what is happening, not the canteen or back-channel email discussions. If you heard it in the canteen or "on the street", I can say without hesitation or a shred of doubt that you heard it totally, completely, unequivocally, wrong. Don't bang on me - it wastes my time repeatedly correcting and reassuring people who can't otherwise seem to be bothered to come to the meetings. I'm not holding separate personal meetings any more. If I'm up in the canteen, I'm there for social, not business purposes. The sign says "No Post Business in the Canteen".

OK, first, the good news. The last six months this quartermaster gig has been a full time job, first trying to understand the post operations and then trying to reorganize them into a financial and operational structure so that it becomes more or less "turn-key" so that various officers, operations and committees know what they should do and how they should do it so as to insure they are in compliance with the various federal, state, and local laws, our National, Department and Post bylaws. If everyone knows what is right and we establish SOPs and good habits, everyone will do it right the first time. This will significantly reduce the quartermaster's workload, or perhaps I should say "RE-workload". We have made significant progress in this regard. There is still more to do, and old habits are hard to break but I will continue to push hard in this area. Ultimately, the goal is to have things as simple and consistent as possible so that as people change roles, committees, etc. our

operations will continue to execute properly without interruption or significant flaws or risks.

It is very important that our Trustees, who are charged with insuring that our Post operates in compliance with all the governing laws and regulations, can actually do the comprehensive audits they are required to do and verify we are indeed on the straight and narrow. I took this job, with your permission, because as a Trustee I discovered there was no way the Trustees could accomplish that responsibility! We are now well on our way as we are now auditable. That doesn't mean we can pass all of our audits, but at least we can now see where we have more work to do, rather than just blink and wonder and guess what the heck is going on.

The District audit greatly expanded this year from half a letter page to a full legal page of checks and responses. Thank God for the last minute, we held this audit with District on December 31st. I confess I was pushing for December 36th but District wasn't buying it. Thank God the records and structures I've been working on for the last six months were in order and we were not only able to complete the audit but we passed with documentation in order showing everything being compliant, except a technical procedure regarding financial reports certified at meetings. Now on to Federal, State and Local operational and employee tax filings.

Now the bad news, for the Post but not for me. I had the luxury the last six months to spend the time necessary to accomplish the above. I was "unemployed". No longer, as I was contacted on the 5th about availability, interviewed on the 6th, and went to work on the 7th full-time plus. My savings were getting down to critical after the last 18 months so this was a welcome personal turn of events. Unfortunately, this also means I'm not going to be at the post anywhere near as much as I was. Consequently, comrades, YOU have to execute what we've worked on the past six months. I can't pick up the slack any longer. If you need something from the Quartermaster, deposits, checks, reports, etc., you need to "get it right" the first time or you'll be waiting awhile.

Financially, our post is a rather complicated operation of both taxable and non-taxable activities. We also have quite a number of accounts that are now operationally segregated, no comingling of

Continued from Quartermaster report on page 4
exempt and non-exempt revenues for the most part. In a nut shell, our primary Veteran operations are in excellent shape, well funded and essentially compliant. Our canteen operations, however, are not covering their costs. Taking into account utilities and the post overhead the canteen consumes, this operation is spending far more than it is taking in, and this is not sustainable. Expect to see some changes in our canteen operations in the very near future, and if you have been avoiding using the canteen which is still the best deal in town, let Kitt know why. People not showing up says something's wrong, but doesn't tell us what that is. We are authorized to run a canteen for the benefit of our members, but if it's not benefitting our members and they make that clear by not showing up, we need to know why. We can't fix it if we don't know what's wrong. All we can do is shut it down if it threatens the viability of our primary post purposes, which is, unfortunately, exactly what it is doing.

The Quartermaster is the finance guy responsible for all funds in the post, but he doesn't approve fund expenditures. Others are responsible for authorization approvals, so don't ask me to cut you a check for something. Go to the appropriate post or committee officer and get their approval using the voucher process and turn in your receipts or else whatever you spend on the post's behalf you may only get to write off on your taxes as a donation. I don't pay email requests, notes on bar-napkins or coasters. If you need the post to pay for something, get that voucher, get it approved then slip it in the Quartermaster slot by the canteen office door. I'll take it from there when I get in from my "day job".

Trustees - heads up! By the time you read this we will have completed the quarterly audit for Department. Let's get ready for a FULL POST AUDIT, so by the time we turn over to our new officers they will know what challenges await them. No surprises for them or us. Let's git-er done.

[From the Troop Support Group Chairman John Kenny](#)

During 2009 you probably witnessed our Troop Support volunteers collecting items at various locations, running fundraising dinners and car washes. We had 30 volunteers each day for 27 days at the Fred Meyer stores in Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond. We had 39 volunteers collecting before the Mariners game on April the 18th. These are only a few of the places our team was working at.

We did 5,220 community service hours in this work and sent over 1, 700 packages to our troops at an average cost of \$30 a box. In order to accomplish our mission we must raise over \$6,000 a month either in cash or donated items. We have provided comfort items to eight Army and Marines infantry units. The units we target are the front-line troops. We make an extra special effort to contact the soldiers and Marines who have no one at home to care about them.

While our numbers are impressive they are just guidelines as to what we do. The important thing is the results of our work. One of our Marine units was assigned to an advanced isolated outpost in Afghanistan. Since this was a very dangerous assignment they could only carry ammo and water with them. They had no food. To their surprise a

helicopter flew in and delivered their mail. Along with the regular mail were 50 of our comfort boxes containing many goodies. To say the Marines were overjoyed with these boxes would be putting it mildly.

One of our units is an Army sniper unit. They are dropped off in isolated areas in the mountains. Their Mission is to disrupt the enemy supply lines.. When they returned to their home base our boxes are waiting for them. Our packages are not just items. They tell the soldiers and Marines we care and admire their courage and dedication.

The year 2010 offers our biggest challenge yet. A few of the other community groups have dropped out of the troop support program. This has increased the burden on the remaining programs. We presently provide for four Army units and four Marine units. We have reached our capacity and for the first time and will have to establish a waiting list. We are always in need of volunteers and donations. As long as our troops are over there we will do our best to help them. Please consider joining us. If you are interested call John Kenny, chairman at the post (425 883-2995) and leave a message. He will return your call.

Upcoming Event

A Special Open House on Saturday, March 6th
Public Welcome

Talk to representatives from various groups and affiliated organizations
Entertainment by "Montage" from 7-11pm

Call the Post for more information or watch for more details in the March newsletter

VFW Service Officer



VA Service Officer, Sherrie Bell is available to assist all veterans with VA Claims on Mondays (holidays excluded) at Post #2995 from 11am until 2pm. Veterans are served in order of appearance at no charge. Please call 206 412-1280 if you need assistance.

State Ritual Team in February-from the Officer of the Day Tom Asaif

Get your calendar out now and mark February 15th as a special day. Post #2995 will be honored with the VFW State Ritual Team conducting a most impressive initiation of new members. If you have not been initiated yet, please take the time to attend this evening and bring your family.

Some of you may have already been through an initiation, however, you are encouraged to participate in this ceremony whenever you have the chance. This team uses a longer form which not only tells you what we are all about, it also shows you. They will demonstrate our procedures and what the VFW stands for. This will make you a better member of the VFW and it will not cost you anything but your time. Bring your

family so they will also have a better understanding about what we stand for and what we do to help our veterans.

The Ladies Auxiliary is also invited to attend the program this evening and will be there to answer any questions that wives, mothers, sisters and daughters might have. Applications will also be available that night.

Representatives from the newly organized Men's Auxiliary will also be there with information and applications for those men that are now eligible to join with all of the same benefits the women have.

Remember – Monday, **February 15th**.

February's \$1.00 Canteen Specials

Mondays
Tuesdays
Thursdays
Also available

Available from 4 – 7 pm in the Canteen

Hot dogs
2 pieces of chicken
2 pieces of fish
Fries for \$1.00

This is a good time to invite your friends to join you and see what the VFW has to offer. Let them know about the various groups that regularly meet at the post. Of course there are the VFW members, the

Ladies Auxiliary and the Men's Auxiliary but do they know about the Honor Guard, Troop Support Group, the American Legions, the Marine Corps League, the Submariners and many more?

Service Academy Graduates Who Became President

U.S. Military Academy: Ulysses S. Grant and Dwight D. Eisenhower. West Point was Eisenhower's second choice when the U.S. Naval Academy turned him away for being too old.

U.S. Naval Academy: Jimmy Carter

West Point Reject: Harry Truman was turned down because of his nearsightedness, and he had to settle for enlisting in Missouri's Army National Guard. He rose to the rank of captain during World War I, and eventually became a colonel in the Army Reserves.

Reprinted from the Redmond Reporter

by Mary Stevens Decker, Reporter on January 19, 2010

Redmond VFW Post extends welcome to Eastside veterans and the community

Each day in Redmond's Overlake neighborhood, thousands of people drive past a sometimes untapped resource for military veterans, their families and the general public.

VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Post 2995, at 4330 148th Ave NE is reaching out to recruit new members and raise awareness of the opportunities that exist for the "25,000 to 50,000 veterans here on the Eastside," said longtime member Bob Michalak and relative newcomer Jake Bond.

"Any vet with an honorable discharge can be a VFW or American Legion member," said Michalak. "It doesn't matter whether you served 20 years or six months. A lot of people don't know that."

People at the post are also "in the know" about nearby, affordable facilities like a Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic at 13033 Bel-Red Rd., as well as how to obtain a free burial in Tahoma National Cemetery or how to file claims for war injuries. In fact, a VFW Service Officer is on site at Post 2995 each Monday (except holidays) at 11 a.m.

"When vets think of benefits, they go to Seattle or Tacoma," said Bond. "Yet we are one of the biggest posts, with services for both older and younger vets."

The post also offers both Men's and Women's Auxiliaries for family members of veterans, a thriving Troop Support program which sends comfort packages to active soldiers to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as an Honor Guard to appear at parades, football games or other community events.

Even those with no ties to the military can rent the hall at VFW Post 2995 or visit the building's restaurant and bar for lunch, dinner and music.

"You won't find a cheaper meal in a down economy," said Bond, who served four years in the United States Marines Corps and is now a financial advisor working in Redmond. "We're always open to suggestions for entertainment," he added. "You'll find a different kind of atmosphere right off the bat in the daytime, it's a nice place for a meeting or brunch but we're also trying to have younger vets know that in the evenings it's a safe, fun place to come with their friends and families."

Bond continued, "You'll see that we really are a community organization. We have scholarship programs, we rent the hall out for weddings as well as having troop support. We want to extend our reach throughout the Eastside."

The post's location, in such a high-traffic area, should be a boon for the organization.

However, Bond explained, "We're in the shadow of Microsoft. A lot of people stroll by here and don't know us. Anything you can do to shine a star on us, to let people know we're here to help and support local vets is good."

To learn more about VFW Post 2995 in Redmond, visit www.vfwpost-2995.org or call (425) 883-2995. The post will also hold an open house from 9 a.m. Saturday, March 6, for all veterans and the general public.

Redmond Reporter Reporter Mary Stevens Decker can be reached at mdecker@redmond-reporter.com or (425) 867-0353, ext. 5052.

**www.VirtualWall.org is a site tribute to military persons who gave the sacrifice.
Bring the Vietnam Veterans Memorial into your home.**

**If you wish to continue to receive this newsletter each month by mail and have not already made a request, please submit your name and complete address to:
VFW Post #2995, 4330 148th Ave. NE, Redmond, WA 98052**

Read your monthly newsletter, anytime, in color, online at www.vfwpost-2995.org

**Please submit all articles for the March newsletter to
karin773@aol.com before February 19th**

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Canteen specials available from 4-7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays</p>	<p>1 Service Officer 11am-2pm Post & Auxiliary meet @ 6:30pm From 4-7pm Hot dogs \$1.00 Fries \$1.00</p>	<p>2 Civil Air Patrol @ 7pm From 4-7pm 2 pc chicken \$1.00 Fries \$1.00</p>	<p>3 American Legion #99 @ 1pm Honor Guard @6pm Dinner @ 6pm ♪Soft Touch 6-9pm</p>	<p>4 Troop Support Group @ 7pm From 4-7pm 2 pc fish \$1.00 Fries \$1.00</p>	<p>5 Dinner @ 6pm ♪DreamChasers 6:30-10:30pm</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Breakfast 9:30-12:30pm Super Bowl Big Screen TV Potluck Drink specials</p>	<p>8 Service Officer 11am-2pm PHB meet @6:30pm</p>	<p>9 Civil Air Patrol @7pm American Legion #239 @ 7pm From 4-7pm 2 pc chicken \$1.00 Fries \$1.00</p>	<p>10 Honor Guard duty at Tahoma Dinner @ 6pm ♪Tom Smith 6-9pm Marine Corps League @ 7pm</p>	<p>11 Troop Support Group @7pm From 4-7pm 2 pc fish \$1.00 Fries \$1.00</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Special Italian dinner for Valentine's Day ♪Fever @7 to 11pm</p>
<p>14 Valentine's Day Breakfast 9:30-12:30pm 82nd Airborne meet @ noon</p>	<p>15 President's Day  Post meeting @6:30pm with a special program with the award winning State Ritual Team at 7:00pm. Everyone invited</p>	<p>16 Men's Auxiliary mtg at 6:30pm Civil Air Patrol @7pm From 4-7pm 2 pc chicken \$1.00 Fries \$1.00</p>	<p>17 Honor Guard @6pm Men's Auxiliary dinner @ 6pm ♪Gee Jay 6-9pm Submariners @7pm</p>	<p>18 Troop Support Group @ 7pm From 4-7pm 2 pc fish \$1.00 Fries \$1.00</p>	<p>19 Dinner @ 6pm ♪Lee Howard from 6:30-10:30pm News articles due</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Breakfast 9:30-12:30pm</p>	<p>22 Service Officer 11am-2pm PHB meet @ 6:30pm</p>	<p>23 Civil Air Patrol @7pm From 4-7pm 2 pc chicken \$1.00 Fries \$1.00</p>	<p>24 Honor Guard @6pm Dinner @6pm ♪Tom Lash 6-9pm</p>	<p>25 Troop Support Group @7pm From 4-7pm 2 pc fish \$1.00 Fries \$1.00 American Legion #161 & Auxiliary meet at 6:30pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 ♪Gee Jay from 7 to 11pm</p>
<p>28 Breakfast 9:30-12:30pm</p>		<p>Step up and sign up Be a Cootie</p>		<p>"Each day comes to me with both hands full of possibilities." Helen Keller</p>		<p>Open House at the Post on Sat., March 6th. Public invited Bring your friends and neighbors</p>