

Lake Washington Veteran

All American VFW Post #2995

Phone 425 883-2995

4330 148th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

May 2009

www.vfwpost-2995.org

POPPY DRIVE MAY 22, 23, 24, 25

Cinco de Mayo

Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo on Tuesday, May 5th. The post will be serving tacos with beer and drink specials.

Installation of Officers of Post 2995

Newly elected officers of Lake Washington Post #2995 and its Auxiliaries, Men's and Ladies, will be installed on Friday, May 8th at 6:30pm in Foley Hall. Support your new officers.

A Mother's Day Hug

Sunday, May 10th from 10:00am until 1:00pm

Come enjoy, assorted pastries, cinnamon rolls, scones with jams and jellies
Scrambled eggs, sweet bacon, sausage links, seasoned potatoes
Dry rub chicken, salmon lox, C.C. mini bagels, B.B.Q. pork, shrimp
AND SO MUCH MORE!

Wrinkles of Washington

WOW the *Wrinkles of Washington* are known for their exciting entertainment all over the State of Washington. You will be guaranteed a great evening of enjoyment and laughter.

Saturday, May 23rd

Spaghetti dinner from 5-6:30pm

Show starts at 7:00pm

Tickets are available at the bar now for only \$10.00 each

Call Belle at 425-885-0171 if you would like to request a reserved table for 6 or more people

Learn more about WOW online at www.wrinklesofwashington.com

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Saturday, May 24th at 2:00pm at the Post

A very special ceremony will take place for all flags to be properly retired.

Memorial Day Program at Sunset Hills

Take the bus with the Honor Guard to Sunset Hills Memorial Park in Bellevue and experience a beautiful program honoring all Veterans and their families on Memorial Day.

Call the Post at 425 883-2995 for time of departure.

Support the Troops Dinner and Entertainment

Saturday, May 30th Jim and Brent will prepare a fabulous BBQ again.

Dinner will be served from 5 pm until 7pm

\$8.00 per person - Children under 10 are free

Entertainment by the Seattle Banjo Club will follow from 4 pm to 7 pm.

From the Commander, Dave Ritch

Post #2995...A Brief History

When you look at the Charter hanging in the entry, would you ever believe 75 years has passed and we are still here. It has not been an easy task to make this dream of the founders come true. Starting with no money, except whatever they could afford to put in the hat as a payment toward dues, they managed to survive. They struggled their way through the Great Depression, and then World War II. In the late 1940's, they had managed to save and scrape together a sum that was spent on buying a Post Home on 148th Ave NE, in Bellevue.

Membership grew through the 1950's, the Korean War, and 'Nam. In the '70s, they struggled but they never gave up. Bingo, Post dinner/dances, and volunteer bartenders kept the Canteen in operation. The Ladies Auxiliary manned (oops) the stoves in the very small kitchen. Annual pig roasts, horseshoe tossing, renting basement space to a pre-school. Yes, they struggled, but survived.

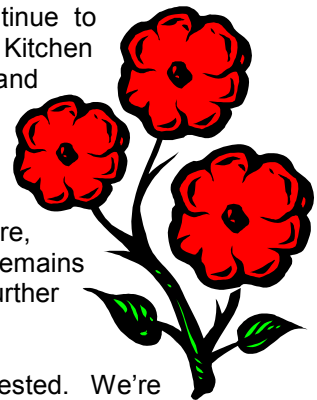
Came the 1980's, the Pro-Club, and of course, Microsoft. As the 'club next door' began to prosper, with the backing of Bill Gate's company, they needed more space to park cars. Eventually, a 'deal was struck' and there was a sale of some back property to the Pro-Club for their parking needs. The money seemed huge, and probably was, for the times. The proceeds were invested in US government T-bills. The future was going to be secured. As we look back, there was a continuous shortfall of income versus expenses. Struggling mightily, they began using the interest payments to support the overall operations of the Post and Canteen. People were hired to be bartenders, janitorial, and grounds keepers. Power bills went up, water and sewer costs soared. And yet they managed to survive, using the T-bill interest payments to help cover all the costs.

Again, here came Pro-Club and its ravenous growth. They needed more parking area. Renting more of the back area to them seemed the thing to do. They did. But then, 'The club next door' came on like a steamroller, and started negotiations to acquire the entire property. The talks went on for a number of years, finally getting serious. They acquired property and buildings across the street and suggested they could renovate to satisfy Post #2995's needs. Eventually, it all came to pass, and a deal was struck. Now the Post resides in a business park/zone area.

The daily operations seemed to be going well, but income never quite matches outgo. Unfortunately, some payments to the IRS were not made, and the IRS swooped in and took all the cash from our bank accounts. Oh my! Now things were really difficult.

However, after careful consideration, while operating hand to mouth, the membership voted to sell one of the precious T-bills, and get everything back to normal. Done deal. The IRS couldn't touch the T-bill account, so we were able to continue with interest payments helping support operations. At this point I should point out, if you haven't picked up on the fact, the Canteen isn't and can't be totally self sufficient in face of all the costs of operation. Again, T-bill interest payments help subsidize operations. And, that arrangement will probably continue into the future. But, it is not the definitive answer to all the problems.

Although the Post does not pay property taxes, costs of other operational items have soared, and there does not seem to be a truly satisfactory resolution to the problem. The Post houses several organizations. Most are veteran groups. Hall rentals continue to assist in some of the shortfall. Kitchen operation has always struggled, and continues to come up short of a profitable operation. If it isn't one thing breaking down, it is something else. A never ending battle of attrition. Furthermore, attendance for meals and dinners remains low, leaving a deep deficit, further straining the cash flow situation.



Oh...Yes, we still have a T-bill invested. We're okay for now and we have a CD invested. But we can be a whole lot better with your help and support. Remember, at some point in the future, there will be several large expenses like, a new roof, a new furnace, new AC system. A long list can be made for the future expenses. Are we ready? Not yet. We need to start saving for that rainy day.

It is only with a great deal of effort and considerable dedication by the membership that a break-even point can be reached. Volunteering certainly is a big help, and a step in the right direction. More importantly, coming to the Post and supporting programs, dinners, pull-tabs, and other programming is necessary. It just can't make it alone. It needs the positive support of the members.

If you are 'young', come in and lets talk. We need you! If you are 'gray on top', come on in. Let's talk. We need you! Let us all pull together and row our Post boat towards a successful goal. Together we can do it. Alone, it may be an impossible task. Step up. Volunteer for an officer position. Be a volunteer helper. Be a leader. With your help, WE can be better than just a place to get a 'cheap drink.'

From the Ladies Auxiliary President, Jennifer Masterjohn

2008-2009 has been a very eventful year as President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Getting through some tough times within our entire organization was one of the biggest tasks for us, but, we came through with flying colors and learned a lot.



In my tenure as President for this organization I learned a great deal, was constantly involved with our Post and maintained a great repore with all four of the Commanders I served beside. It is the job of the Ladies Auxiliary to assist the Post in any endeavor they may have. I would like to thank my Officers for a great job this year.

To my loyal volunteers on the "J & J Crew" it's been a lot of hard work and fun. I just want you to know how much I appreciate your dedication and loyalty to Sunday

From the Honor Guard Captain Jim Weaver

The Honor Guard participated in the annual Arbor Day program at Lewis Creek Park on April 18 and then along with members of the post took part in recognition at the Mariner's game that evening. We had six services at Tahoma National Cemetery also.

I would like to remind you of our Memorial Day program to be held at Sunset Hills Memorial Park on Monday, May 25th at 11:00am. Please join us for a very touching remembrance of our Veterans and the families who have given so much for our country. There will also be a Military Memorial Museum for everyone to visit that is very interesting and sure to bring back some memories. This will be open for visitors on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Please call Sunset Hills at 425 746-1400 for the hours and more information.



breakfasts. It was one of the projects that was started and has become very successful in helping our Post as

an Auxiliary. I hope that it continues. For those of you that don't know, Joan will be leaving for school and has advised us that as of May 1, she will no longer be available. As I have asked in the past we are always looking for volunteers so if you are available, especially on Sunday mornings, you should contact your Post or Auxiliary.

The 75th Anniversary of the Post was a lot of work and given the circumstances we had to overcome, everyone said they had a great time and the food was wonderful, I think it went quit well. I look forward to seeing the Ladies Auxiliary continue to succeed in doing what is needed in the upcoming year.

Join un on May 8th at 6:30pm for the Installation of our new officers, however, they will not officially take charge of their duties until July. Best of luck to the new President and Officers

On Sunday, May 24th at 2:00pm we are having a Flag Retirement Ceremony at our post. If you have any unserviceable flags, now is the time to bring them or drop them off at the post. Please put a note on them that they are for the ceremony. If you have never seen this program, now is the time to see it and/or participate in it.

We have several other events planned for the month of May throughout the community. Please remember the Poppy Drive will be going on the same week-end of Memorial Day. Your help is needed as it is important to our needy Veterans and their families.

As always, we are "Serving Those Who Served Us"

Dinner Menu for Wednesday evenings from Chef Steven

May 6	A Night in Italy
May 13	Pork chops, oven roasted potatoes, white wine mushroom medley, salads and dessert.
May 20	Men's Auxiliary serving Prime Rib and all the fixings
May 27	Chicken Cordon Bleu, ziti cheese bake, brussel sprouts, salads and dessert



VFW Service Officer, Sherrie Bell,

Sherrie 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



From the Troop Support Group, John Kenny

On Saturday, May 30th the Troop Support team will be sponsoring the fabulous Jim and Brent BBQ again. All of their previous dinners have received rave reviews. Dinner will be served from 5 pm until 7 pm and the price is only \$8.00 per person. Children under 10 are free. In addition to this super dinner we will be entertained by the outstanding Seattle Banjo Club. They will be playing from 4 pm to 7 pm. Fabulous food and great entertainment all for only \$8.00. Best bargain in town.

On Saturday, April 18th our team collected donations at the Mariner's game. We had 39 great volunteers and 10 of them were brand-new to our program. We collected over \$2,300 in our two hours there. This was \$1,400 less than last year but most welcomed in any case. There were two major factors in this downside. The economy was number 1. Number 2 was a traffic nightmare that surrounded the ballpark that night. There were two major sporting events going on at the same time within a block or two of each other. In addition to this we had all sorts of road closures. Even though we left an hour early to get to the game, without the driving skills of Ross Hubbard we never would have made it in time. He maneuvered that old bus in and out of traffic like he was driving a sports car. Many thanks Ross.

We want to thank the Mariners for offering us this opportunity for the past four years. There is no question they really care for our troops. The biggest highlight of the day happened at three separate gates. Three former soldiers stopped by and told our team members they were recipients of our packages. They went on to say



how grateful their fellow soldiers and Marines were. When we returned to the post that night Christie Turley was there. She told us how overwhelmed her old unit was to receive our packages. She reported they think our team is pretty special.

We cannot emphasize enough how important these packages are to troops. They get the latest news stories and see that their efforts are pushed off the front pages. There has been no letup on their mission. However right or wrong the public is more concerned with the economy and has delegated them to a secondary role. When you have to put your life on the line every day this is a concern. Our packages are much more important than the token items they contain. Our boxes mean that we are concerned as citizens and are very proud of th

On Friday, May 15th we will be at the Bellevue Fred Meyer Store from 5-8pm. We will also be there from 11am until 5pm on the 16th and 17th.

As you can see we are operating at a breakneck pace. When we send out 200 boxes a month we need to raise \$6,000 a month. We are totally dependent on donations either in cash or merchandise to complete our mission. Our soldiers and Marines need our help. Please consider giving a few hours to help our soldiers and Marines. If you are interested please leave a message for me at the post at 425 883-2995 and I will return your call. John Kenny

From the Canteen Manager, Kitt Podgorny

Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo on Tuesday, May 5th. The post will be serving tacos with beer and drink specials.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the Men's Auxiliary for preparing and serving dinner on the 3rd Wednesday nights. They will be continuing each month.

Also a special thanks to our own Jennifer and Joan and their crew for their fantastic breakfasts.

A Thank You from Joan Sherman



I want to Thank You Jennifer for making my weekends great. We work well together and have so many laughs. I am going to miss you so much. I also want to thank Esther Jones, Arlene Steele, Mary Farrow, and Pam the bartender for our dedicated Sunday fun. Keep up the good work.

Volunteers Needed

Jennifer and Joan have been volunteering in the kitchen for breakfasts for quite some time and now Joan is leaving for California to further her education in the culinary field. We wish her the best. Meanwhile we need a dependable volunteer, or more, to help fill Joan's shoes. If you are interested, please get in touch with Kitt or Jennifer at the post for more information.

Memorial Week-end Poppy Drive



The Veterans of Foreign Wars have been distributing "Buddy" Poppies since 1922. The proceeds from the "Buddy" Poppy Campaign are used exclusively to assist disabled and needy veterans and the widows and children of deceased veterans.

A good way to personally show your gratitude for the sacrifices of our disabled veterans is to make a donation and wear a "Buddy" Poppy.

Please take a few hours to help with the Poppy Drive that will take place on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 22-25. You can sign up for your choice of day and time at the post. Reggie Watts and Doni Gord are the Chairman this year.

Mother's Day

Remember all Mother's on Mother's Day.
Bring Mom and the family to a special Brunch at the Post on Mother's Day.
Families are like fudge.....mostly sweet with a few nuts.

Some Motherly Advice...

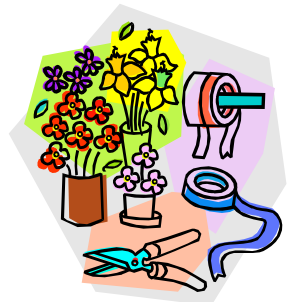
- ☆ Always change your underwear; you never know when you'll have an accident.
- ☆ Don't make that face or it'll freeze in that position.
- ☆ Be careful or you'll put your eye out.
- ☆ What if everyone jumped off a cliff? Would you do it, too?
- ☆ You have enough dirt behind those ears to grow potatoes!
- ☆ Close that door! Were you born in a barn?
- ☆ If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.
- ☆ Don't put that in your mouth; you don't know where it's been!

Please and Thank You



Many thanks to Louise Sodawasser and Duane Starr for all the time and hard work they have put into planting flowers and keeping the Post grounds beautiful. Also thanks to Harry Ruby for fixing the reader board (again), hauling new chairs for the post and donating a new lawn mower.

Now, let's all help by keeping the grounds free of litter and cigarette butts. The Post Home Board has declared the front entrance a "No Smoking" area. This is your post so let's all help to keep it nice and clean. If everyone does a little bit, there will not be a lot left to do and we can all be proud of our beautiful Post Home.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 16	District #11's District Convention at 1:00pm at the VFW Renton Post #1263 with lunch to follow
Wednesday thru Saturday, June 24-27	VFW State Convention in Yakima, Washington
Saturday, November 7 th	Save this date for something special coming to your Post.

From the Editor, Karin Ridge

A copy of the VFW monthly newsletter is available at the Post before the first of each month. It is also available every month on our website at www.vfwpost-2995.org and in full color, thanks to our Webmaster Dan Nelson.



If you want to continue receiving the newsletter via 'snail' mail, we are requesting that you send a written request with your name and complete address with zip code to: VFW Post #2995, 4330 – 148th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052 or stop by the Post and enter this information in our mailing list book, available at the bar. After August 1, 2009, this will be the only way you will be able to get the newsletter delivered to your home address. This will greatly help reduce some unnecessary costs for the post.

When we have a newsletter with the wrong address or

notification that the address has changed or the recipient is deceased it will be sent back to the post, however, each one will cost the post 50¢. That might not seem like much but it sure adds up. Newsletters will not be forwarded to anyone because they are not sent out as First Class mail at a current cost of 42¢ each.

If anyone has something that may be of interest for the newsletter, please e-mail the information to karin773@aol.com or leave a written copy in the "Newsletter" box at the Post to be considered. Please include your name and phone number. Please submit all articles for the next newsletter to me no later than May 16th. You may leave an article at the post or e-mail it to me at Karin773@aol.com. Remember - You can always find the latest newsletter, in color, on line at: www.vfwpost-2995.org

Canteen Hours

Monday - Thursday	11am – 10pm
Friday	11am - midnight
Saturday	noon - midnight
Sunday	9:30am – 5pm

Food Service

Lunch prepared by Chef Steven
Monday thru Friday 11am until 2pm
Dinners available every Wednesday and Fridays
with entertainment from 6 until 7:30 pm
Breakfast is available every Sunday morning
From 9:30am until 12:30pm

Groups that meet regularly at the Post

- Regular meetings of VFW Post #2995 are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:30pm, unless it falls on a holiday. If the meeting date falls on a holiday, the meeting will be held on the following Tuesday.
- Post Home Board meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:30pm.
- Regular meetings of the Ladies Auxiliary are held on the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm unless it falls on a holiday, then the regular meeting will be held on the 3rd Monday that month.
- The Men's Auxiliary to Lake Washington VFW Post #2995 meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.
- Honor Guard meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10am and the 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm.
- Honor Guard meets for practice only on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm.
- Troop Support Group meets every Thursday at 7pm
- Civil Air Patrol meets every Tuesday at 7:00pm.
- Marine Corps League meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm www.seattlemarines.org
- Submariners meet every 3rd Wednesday at 7pm
- American Legion #99 meets every 1st Wednesday at 1:00pm.
- American Legion #161 meets every 4th Thursday at 6:30pm.
- American Legion #161 Ladies Unit meets every 4th Thursday at 6:30pm.
- American Legion #239 meets every 2nd Tuesday at 7:00pm



May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Dinner 6-7:30pm Randy Litch entertains from 6:30-10:30pm	2
3 Breakfast 9:30 – 12:30	4 VFW Service Officer 11-2pm Post and Auxiliary meet at 6:30pm	5 Cinco de Mayo Civil Air Patrol meets at 7pm	6 American Legion #99 meets at 1:00pm Dinner 6-7:30pm Soft Touch entertains 6-9pm Honor Guard practice at 6:30pm	7 Troop Support Group meets at 7pm	8 Installation of Officers 6:30pm Dinner 6-7:30pm Lee Howard entertains from 6:30-10:30pm	9 Bits & Pieces entertain tonight 7-11pm
10 Mother's Day Special Brunch for Mother's Day and family from 10am until 1pm	11 VFW Service Officer 11-2pm Post Home Board meets at 6:30pm	12 Civil Air Patrol meets at 7pm American Legion #239 meets at 7pm	13 Tahoma Duty Dinner 6-7:30pm Soft Touch entertains 6-9pm Marine Corps Lge meets 7pm	14 Troop Support Group meets at 7pm	15 Dinner 6-7:30pm Montage entertains tonight 6:30-10:30pm	16 Armed Forces Day News articles due today
17 Breakfast 9:30-12:30 Honor Guard meets at 10:00am	18 Post meeting at 6:30pm	19 Men's Auxiliary meets at 6:30pm Civil Air Patrol meets at 7pm	20 Dinner 6-7:30pm by Men's Aux Soft Touch entertains 6-9pm Submariners meet at 7pm Honor Guard 6:30pm	21 Troop Support Group meets at 7pm	22 Poppy Drive 22 thru the 25th of May	23 Poppy Drive today Wrinkles of Washington Dinner & entertainment- tickets available
24 Poppy Drive today Breakfast 9:30-12:30 Flag Retirement Ceremony 2pm	25 Memorial Day Poppy Drive thru today Sunset Hills Memorial Day program at 11am	26 Civil Air Patrol meets at 7:00pm	27 Dinner 6-7:30pm Soft Touch entertains 6-9pm	28 Troop Support Group meets at 7pm American Legion #161 & Auxiliary meet at 6:30pm	29	30 GeeJay entertains tonight from 7-11pm Troop Support dinner and entertainment
31 Breakfast 9:30-12:30	June 1 VFW Service Officer 11- 2pm Post and Auxiliary meet at 6:30pm	June 2 Civil Air Patrol meets at 7pm	June 3 American Legion #99 meets at 1:00pm Dinner 6-7:30pm Soft Touch entertains 6-9pm Honor Guard practice at 6:30pm	June 4 Troop Support Group meets at 7pm	June 5 Dinner 6-7:30pm DreamChasers entertain 6:30- 10:30pm	June 6 Do you know a Cootie?