

The Buckboard Bulletin

"First to serve our Veterans"

January 2008

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I write this the new year is about to turn. It has been an exciting and eventful year. Your Post and Auxiliary have done a lot to help people from the community in need. Here is hoping 2008 will bring much more happiness to all of you.

We had a good turnout for Oregon Trail School Superintendent Shelley Redinger's presentation to us at the last meeting. She was well received and gave us a good idea of what the future holds for the young people in our schools. Shelley is a talented education leader and keeps the needs of our school children first and foremost in her decisions.

With the new year we have several special dinners scheduled for you and your guests during January through April, beginning with Bob Dunn's famous BBQ Rib Dinner. Check the calendar for dates and time.

In conjunction with the Mt Hood Community College Veterans Club, and under the leadership of our own Josh Ray, we sent Christmas Boxes to our own SFC Alex Heller and his platoon in Iraq. They were delighted to receive the packages, and in time for Christmas. I want to thank you all for supporting this incredible project. Each of you remember how happy you were when you were overseas and received packages from home.

We are way behind last year in recruiting. I need each of you to recruit one new member, or get one member to reinstate. In numbers we have strength. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2008, please do so at this time. I will be asking some of you to serve on the membership committee. Any volunteers?

Mid-Winter is being held in Medford on 8-10 February. Our Voice of Democracy winner, Emily Secomb, won District 15 and will represent us at the state level in Medford. Michael Dutt placed 2nd, and Bethany Teixeira was third. Congratulations to these students.

Our Post Patriot's Pen winner is Cameron Pelleleer. Second place went to Alec Shields and third place was Kristan Holding. Cameron also won at the District level. Congratulations to all of the winners, and thanks to all of the students who participated in both of these programs. A THANK YOU to Nick Roth for all of the hard work he put into both of these programs. His dedication to the youth of this community is invaluable.

I would like to thank the Route 26 Car Club, and Portland General Electric for their generous monetary donations to the Post. They are patriots in the true sense of the word and their gifts will be put to the best use. Semper Fi!

Bert Key, Commander

President's Message

Ladies,

I trust that all of you had a great Christmas, as did I. Although it can be a stressful time for some of us, it is always wonderful gathering with family and friends during the holiday season.

I would like to thank Bert and Jackie for hosting the Line Officer's Appreciation Dinner. It was nice for all of us to be acknowledged by our commander for the work that we have done to make the post even better. Most of the line officers were able to attend and it was a lot of fun getting together outside of the post.

The Adopt-A-Family program was a huge success this year. Thanks goes to all of you who supported the Breakfast/BINGO's and to those who donated food and money to this program. Because of your generosity we were able to give this family a very nice Christmas. I have had the extreme pleasure of taking on this program for the past few years and I cannot even begin to express how much I enjoy being a part of it. My Daughter Samantha did a great job this year with all the shopping, and wrapping of presents and delivering them Christmas Eve morning. This year we adopted a very nice veteran and his family of six children. As we were taking the presents in I saw the excitement on the faces of these kids. The smallest child, a tiny little girl of six years was the most excited. One of the gifts was too big and awkward to wrap so we had just put a big bow on it. As the little girl saw me carrying it in, her eyes lit up, she put her hands together like she was praying and said, "Please tell me that the name Alex is on that present." My eyes instantly got teary as I told her that it was for her. And then she thanked me several times. I will never forget the look on that little girl's face. So, this is why our Adopt-A-Family program is so important. I wish all of you health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year. Thank you. Lori Merritt, President

Calendar of Coming Events

January 6	Breakfast & BINGO / Men's Auxiliary
January 9	House Committee Meeting - 5:30 pm
January 11	Post & Ladies Auxiliary Meetings
January 12	Men's Auxiliary Meeting - 2:00 pm
January 13	BINGO Men's Auxiliary 1:00 pm
January 17	Clackamas County VA Rep 10 to Noon
January 19	January Birthday Party 6:00 pm
January 20	Breakfast & BINGO / Post
January 26	Bob Dunn's BBQ Rib Dinner 5:00-7:00 pm
January 27	Breakfast & BINGO / Ladies Auxiliary

From Your Editor

Jackie Key

All committee reports and news articles need to be turned in to me by January 20th, for the February newsletter. Contact your editor at:

Jackie.Key@vfw4273.org
or **cavalry1@teleport.com**

**Men's Auxiliary
President's Message**

It has taken a while to get the ball rolling but we made it and are up and running. Our first meeting was on December 8th. We elected officers for the first year and they are: President– Bob Dunn, Senior Vice– Ken Kautz, Secretary– Larry Merritt, and Treasurer– Roy Audas.

We had a pretty good turnout at the first meeting but I would like to see more participation. Let's show the post that we deserve the opportunity that they have given us and really make a go of the Men's Auxiliary.

It was decided that our meetings will be on the second Saturday of each month at 2:00 PM. That will follow the day after the Post and Ladies Auxiliary have their monthly meetings. Please attend the meetings so you have input into the decision making.

I have signed us up for some fund raisers and will need help. I will need two people to help with out Breakfast/BINGO on January 6th. As usual the breakfast will be from 10-12:00 AM, and BINGO starts at 1:00 PM. I will also need help on the BBQ Rib dinner the Auxiliary is putting on January 26th. Please contact me if you want to help out.

Have a great Christmas and New Years.

Bob Dunn, Proud to be your first President.

The Post Chaplain**Nick Roth**

Life member Bill Mullenberg passed away last month. He had been ailing for many years before moving into a nursing home in East Gresham. No memorial or funeral service was held according to sources. We will cherish the memories of better days gone by. God bless you Bill.

Gary Brandon is still ailing and at last report is still in the Portland V.A. Hospital. Denny Bridges is still hanging on and would appreciate an occasional visitor. He is still on oxygen 24/7, making it very difficult to breath. Our thoughts and best wishes and prayers go out to all who are ill, infirmed, or in dire need.

In case you did not know, your chaplain has been in and out of the V.A. Hospital the past several months fighting cancer. Marty LeDoux has agreed to step in for me in case I am unable to. Merry Christmas to all!

Men's Auxiliary Rib Dinner
(Bob Dunn's Famous Rib Dinner)

January 26th**5-7:00 PM**

**Tickets are \$10 each
and available at the Canteen.**

The Auxiliary Chaplain**Bonnie Hershberger**

Laura DeLong is resting at home after a medical procedure. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We hope Alys Snyder is improving and wish her well.

Penny Edwards is back to work but is still convalescing at home.

Jean Bettencourt has pneumonia. Get well soon, Jean.

We send our good wishes out to Hazel Harmon she is in our prayers.

God Bless and Happy New Year to All!

**Breakfast and BINGO
Held in the Canteen**

January 3, 10, 17, and 24.
No breakfast on January 10.

**Breakfast served from
10:00 am to Noon.**

BINGO starts at 1:00 pm.

These are fundraisers for our Post & Auxiliary programs. Come join the fun and support your programs.

Post Officers	2007-2008	Auxiliary Officers	
Commander	Bert Key	President	Lori Merritt
Senior Vice Commander	Chuck Lutz	Sr. Vice President	Kathy Dunn
Junior Vice Commander	Mike Horttor	Jr. Vice President	Helene Hawkins
Chaplain	Nick Roth	Treasurer	Jackie Key
Quartermaster	Ken Hershberger	Chaplain	Bonnie Hershberger
Judge Advocate	John Lamb	Secretary	Dora Fitzpatrick
Adjutant	Allen Anderson	Guide	Kit Spitzengel
Surgeon	Jim Mitchell	Conductress	Jean Bettencourt

CANTEEN CORNER

Lori Merritt

From the Sandbox:

I just wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope this holiday season finds you all well, and I pray for continued blessings for all of you and your families. You have all been a great bunch of friends, and I truly enjoy hearing from you and "the real world". Our soldiers are continuing to do great things in Iraq. I want to thank everyone who has been gracious to our soldiers with the continued holiday packages. I thank you on behalf of my soldiers and myself for the huge number of boxes we have received thus far from you guys. It started with the "ton" of cookies, and now you sent each and every soldier his own Christmas box. You guys and gals are the best, and I miss being back in Sandy even more. Words cannot even begin to express how we feel about your continued support and blessings for our soldiers. You guys and gals are truly amazing. To see their faces light up with the silliest little toy in a box is priceless, and a little funny too. During this holiday season I want to thank you for your service to our country, and your continued service to our communities and soldiers overseas, I truly could not have picked a better bunch of veterans and spouses to become a part of during my stay in Oregon. I think you have made my choice of retirement location quite easy. If I can ask you all to do me one favor. Right before you rip into your presents take a moment to remember those of our brothers and sisters who did not come home from this war. It is through their ultimate sacrifice that we can continue to enjoy this season in the traditions we have. It is truly this soldier's wish not to be decorated with medals and promotions, but to never have his brothers and sisters in arms be forgotten. Thank you again for everything, and God Bless You and God Bless the United States of America. Take care. Alex Heller

There is always something going on at the Post so stop by and join in on the fun. The Canteen looked very festive for the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who donated decorations to the effort. Our Christmas and New Year's Eve Parties were a lot of fun this year. Good food, good friends, what more could a person ask for?

The Meeting night Potluck was a big hit! A big thanks to everyone who participated in the Baked Potato Dinner. This month our Meeting night Dinner will have a Mexican theme, so bring your favorite dish. Dinner starts at 6:00 PM.

If anyone is interested in coordinating another Texas Hold 'Em Tournament, contact me and we can schedule it.

We have Breakfast/BINGO, or just BINGO scheduled every Sunday. Check the calendar for dates.

Thank you to:

*Samantha Carlson for making up the Adopt-A-Family Raffle basket.

*Clyde Wentworth for his donation to the basket.

*Kit Spitzengel for winning the Adopt-A-Family Raffle basket.

What's happening at your VFW?

The Buddy Poppy Committee is beginning to organize for this year's campaign. If you are available to help with this year's program now is the time to contact your Post Commander, Bert Key, or your Ladies Auxiliary President, Lori Merritt, or your Men's Auxiliary President, Bob Dunn. Anyone ready for another Buddy Poppy Pub Crawl?

Oregon VFW Mid-Winter Conference is set for Medford on February 8-10, 2007. Several Post and Auxiliary members are scheduled to attend.

Potlucks on meeting nights will be ready to eat by 6:00 pm. January's potluck theme is Mexican.

Quote of the month:

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

Martin Luther King Jr.



Happy New Year!



THE BUCKBOARD BULLETIN
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