

# The Buckboard Bulletin

"First to serve our Veterans"

February 2008

## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The new year is moving along as we plow right through January and on into February. As much as I enjoy the coziness of Winter, I am looking forward to Spring. Soon, we will be out on the links playing golf as man was meant to do.

It has been over a year now since the membership voted to ban the smoking of tobacco in the Post. That was a momentous decision made after much debate. The decision was two years ahead of our own state legislature, which is considered by many to be somewhat progressive. However, there were several naysayer's who were certain that such a progressive act would cause the canteen to go out of business. And some of those naysayer's are staying away from the post just to make sure that, indeed happens.

I am happy to report that nothing could be further from reality. The financial health of the Canteen and the Post is in very good shape. Remember, every time you support the Post Activities, you support the needs of our local veterans. No support from you, no help to those who need it. I ask that you consider supporting our veterans in any way you can. Many are in need.

I bump into long time members all around this community weekly who have not come into the post in quite a while because they remember how uncomfortable the smoking atmosphere was to them and their families. Many of them have not yet gotten the word that we are smoke free. So pass the word! More and more of them are coming back when they find out.

I have received many, many more positive comments about your decision than I have negative ones. People are proud that they have a pleasant place to frequent and enjoy with their families, and enjoy the camaraderie that we veterans have amongst ourselves. The environment at the post is now one that all of our members can enjoy comfortably. We truly are a Band of Brothers and Sisters.

At our last Post meeting Quartermaster Ken Hershberger tendered his resignation effective 12 February. If any of you would like to be considered for that position, or know of some other member who is interested, please contact me. By the way, elections for new officers are coming up in. Be thinking about what position in you would like to serve or who you would like to nominate.

I would like to thank Kris Engblom and John Lamb for volunteering their holiday to help our long time sister, Irene Armstrong, by installing a porch railing at her home. You gentlemen do professional work and Irene is very pleased.

Semper Fi!

Bert Key, Commander

## President's Message

Ladies,

One of my goals this year was to see our Auxiliary reach 100 percent membership. I am excited to announce that as of January meeting night we are at 101%. We have succeeded! I am so proud of everyone who worked so hard to make this possible. Thank you Sisters for getting your dues paid in a timely manner. This accomplishment not only helps our Auxiliary but also District 15.

The other two goals I have are better attendance at meetings and participation. Attendance at meetings has been kind of low, however, it has been great seeing some old friends back and even some new faces at the meetings. If there are any of you who would like to come to the meeting but need a ride please call me and I will try to arrange that for you.

I would also like to thank everyone who participated in the Meeting Night Potluck Dinners. We have had some very good food. The meeting night dinners will continue.

We have some great activities planned this month so check the calendar for dates and times.

I would also like us all to say a special prayer for Post Member Gary Brandon who is in the hospital.

Thank you. Lori Merritt, President

## Calendar of Coming Events

February 3	Breakfast & BINGO / Ladies Auxiliary Super Bowl Party 3:00 pm
February 8-10	Mid-Winter Conference - Medford
February 10	BINGO 1:00 - 3:00 pm
February 13	House Committee Meeting 5:30 pm
February 15	Meeting Potluck 6:00 pm Auxiliary Meeting 6:45 pm Post Meeting 8:00 pm
February 16	Men's Auxiliary Meeting 2:00 pm
February 17	Breakfast & BINGO / Men's Auxiliary
February 21	Clackamas County VA Rep 10 to Noon
February 23	Prime Rib Dinner 5:00-7:00 pm
February 24	Breakfast & BINGO / Post
February 29	Birthday Party 6:00 pm
March 2	Breakfast & BINGO / Men's Auxiliary

**From Your Editor**

Jackie Key

All committee reports and news articles need to be turned in to me by February 21, for the March newsletter. Contact your editor at:

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

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

Hello again auxiliary members. In some ways we are getting off to a good start and in other ways not so good. We had our first meeting after our organizational meeting and only 4 members were there. I am sure the reason was because people forgot or just did not know about the time and date. Our next meeting will be February 16th at 2:00 pm.

Now for the good news. Larry Merritt and Darrell Vaughan and myself did a breakfast and BINGO on January 6th and made \$353.50. Thanks to Larry and Darrell. I would also like to thank Clyde Wentworth for donating prizes during the BINGO and assisting with cleanup. Thanks to Ken Kautz for helping with BINGO on January 13th. We made \$120 on that event. Good job everyone.

Our BBQ Rib Dinner was a huge success on January 26th. Thanks to everyone who helped with that, especially my wife Kathy, and Larry Merritt.

Our recruiting effort is off and running. If you know of anyone out there who qualifies for membership hand them an application, or have them call me or Larry and we will get them one. In number we have strength, and we have gotten off to a great start. Thank you everyone!

Bob Dunn, President

**The Post Chaplain**

**Nick Roth**

Life member, and retired Air Force Major Alfred Baker passed away last week on January 25. He was a member of that "Greatest Generation." We will cherish the memories of better days gone by. God bless you Alfred.

Gary Brandon is still ailing and at last report is still in the Gresham Hospital. 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. Nick is home now and putting up the good fight. Nick is able to entertain visitors. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to Nick and his family.

Marty LeDoux has agreed to step in for Nick as Post Chaplain.

**Ladies Auxiliary Rib Dinner**  
 (Helene Hawkins famous Prime Rib)  
**\*\*Rare guaranteed at 5:00 pm \*\***  
**February 23**  
**5-7:00 PM**  
**Tickets are \$13 each**  
**Available at the Canteen**

**The Auxiliary Chaplain**

**Bonnie Hershberger**

This month we send our Post Chaplain, Nick Roth our get well wishes. He is recuperating at home. He is one of our most active members keeping VFW programs alive for our Post and Auxiliary. We all miss his guidance. Get well soon, Nick.

God Bless Us All!

Visit the VFW Post 4273 website.  
 Get your newsletter in color.  
<http://www.vfw4273.org>

**Breakfast and BINGO  
 Held in the Canteen**

**February 3, 17, and 24.**  
**No breakfast on February 10.**

**Breakfast served from  
 10:00 am to Noon.**  
 (Coming soon Tim Wilson's biscuits & gravy.)

**BINGO starts at 1:00 pm.**

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

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:**

Dear fellow members and Auxiliary Ladies and Gentlemen,

Things over here are going relatively well. The holiday season was a plentiful one for all our soldiers, and I believe some of them are still enjoying some of the treats you folks sent over. We have increased our patrols, and I think we can start seeing some of the benefits of that. The area is generally safe, but the fluid nature of this war means we can have anything happen anytime. We have also said good-bye to 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood, to whom we were attached. We are now working with 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne, and if I remember right there are a couple of real "Hooah Screamin' Eagles" vets at the Post. The versatility of the Stryker Combat Vehicle constantly has us working with somebody outside of the Regiment, as the combatant commander, who is 4th ID now, wants to spread that ability equally across his area. So, for now we continue to work the very heart of Baghdad, and things are going pretty well. I hope this email finds all of you well, and I pray that we did not have to drape the charter this month. I thank each and every one of you for your service to this country, and a big thank you to the ladies that support us all. Thank you again for everything, and God Bless You and God Bless the United States of America. Take care. Alex Heller

Our Breakfast and BINGO's have been very successful this month. We will continue to have BINGO every Sunday with breakfast two or three times per month.

The New Year's Eve Party was a lot of fun this year. There were great games, lots of good food, and a good time was had by all.

Congratulations to our newest retiree, Dan Copher. He now joins the ranks of the other retirees that get to stay in their jammies all day, or play golf when the weather permits. Enjoy your retirement Dan!

Bob Dunn's BBQ Rib Dinner was fabulous. The dinner was delicious! Great job on the dinner, Bob and also to his lovely wife Kathy. Proceeds from the dinner went to the Men's Auxiliary.

Helene Hawkins is putting on her annual Prime Rib Dinner February 23rd. Tickets are now on sale at the Canteen. Please buy your tickets as soon as possible so she can get an accurate head count. Tickets are \$13 each. Proceeds from the dinner will go to the Bake and Sew Ladies.

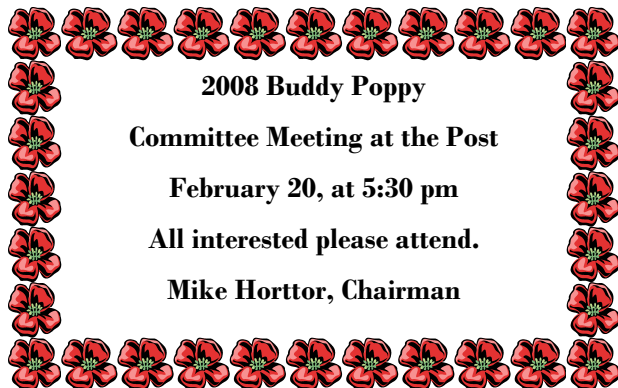
Need a BIG SCREEN to watch the Super Bowl? Join us at the Canteen. Game starts at 3:00 pm. Bring your favorite game snack to share.

Thank you to Al Gagnon for shoveling snow off our side walk.

A great big "THANK YOU" goes to all who support our fundraisers. Anyone have any ideas for activities at the canteen? Let me know your thoughts. See you at the Post!

**BOWLING**

Anyone interested in forming a Post Bowling Team should contact Darrell Vaughan at 903-413-6784.



2008 Buddy Poppy

Committee Meeting at the Post

February 20, at 5:30 pm

All interested please attend.

Mike Horttor, Chairman

**THANK YOU FOR MY BIRTHDAY PARTY**

I cannot express my surprise and joy to see so many old friends. So many happy and sad times in my 32 years in the Sandy VFW Auxiliary. I will try to start being a better member.

Many thanks to Bonnie, Jan, Joann, Lorraine, Marqerite, Laura, Lori, Kit, Millie, and Voriece for attending. Thanks also for the best wishes from Leo, Jack, and Charles who signed my birthday card.

Delores Jordan

**Quote of the month:**

“And Crispin Crispian shall ne’er go by,  
 From this day to the ending of the world,  
 But we in it shall be remembered;  
 We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;  
 For he to-day that sheds his blood with me  
 Shall be my brother; be he ne’er so vile  
 This day shall gentle his condition:  
 And gentlemen in England, now a-bed  
 Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,  
 And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks  
 That fought with us upon Saint Crispin’s day.”  
 William Shakespeare, Henry V



**Happy Valentine's  
 Day**



**THE BUCKBOARD BULLETIN**  
 Sandy VFW Post 4273  
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