

The Buckboard Bulletin

"First to serve our Veterans"

September 2007

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Ladies and gentlemen, Summer is just about to come to a close and it has been a fast one. The older I get the faster the seasons seem to go. Do you ever get that feeling? A lot of water has gone over the falls since we last chatted.

Now is the time to get going on recruiting. We did really well last year, but it is like a good defensive position, it is never complete and is constantly being improved upon.

We had 13 members of the Post and Auxiliary attend the state convention in June in Eugene. A lot of information was exchanged and a good time was had by all of the attendees. In addition to that, with a lot of help from this post, yours truly was elected to the position of Department Surgeon. I sincerely thank you all for your support. Perhaps in a few years we will bring the Department Commander position back to Sandy as past Commanders Marty LeDoux and K.O. Towery did.

Your Post has been selected as an All State Post for this year. In addition to that your District 15 was selected as an All American District. You can take a lot of pride in both of these accolades. It is a privilege to be your Commander.

We had a nostalgic entry of historical military vehicles in the Sandy Mountain Days Parade. Our Color Guard was

superb. They received a First Place Ribbon, as did our vehicle convoy. I was ever so proud riding in that M38 Jeep at the head of the column, along with President Lori Merritt, as we represented all the members of this Post and Auxiliary.

There was a great turn out at the post picnic in Barton Park, and a lot of fun was had by all, including some of our friends from Gresham Post 180 who joined us. There are several people to thank, but many thanks go to Larry and Lori Merritt for all of the time and hard work they put in to ensure a successful event. An event like this does not come off on its' own. It takes people like the Merritt's to step up to the plate and get things done.

Speaking of getting things done, I need volunteers to help clean the outside of our building and prepare it for new paint. I would like to pressure wash it on 18 September and need about 6 volunteers. Loretta Wilson has volunteered to organize the paint crew, and she would like to paint on 23 September. She also needs 6 volunteers. This is a great time to spruce up the appearance of our building. Please join one, or both of these work crews.

Finally, as you know we lost a past Post Commander, and Department Chief of Staff, Bud Pullen. He was a proud and noble American from the Greatest Generation. We wish Snookie and his family well. Semper Fi!

Bert Key, Commander

President's Message

I would like to thank all of my Sisters for your confidence in me as President of the Ladies Auxiliary. I have a few goals I would like to meet this year and am asking for your help in fulfilling them. First is membership. I would like us to be 100% this year. We were very close to that last year so I feel with a bit of effort we can reach this goal easily. I am challenging each of you to recruit one new member. I think if each of us recruited even one new member we can reach this goal. Second is participation. We have one of the largest Auxiliaries in the state and yet only a hand full of our ladies participate in our programs and fundraisers. Ladies, I am asking you to put your talents to work. I know that we have among us some very good cooks and bakers. I would like to see some new faces helping out with our breakfasts and dinners. These fundraisers are a vital part of what keeps our Auxiliary going and able to help our Veterans and fellow Sisters. Also by helping out you get to meet new people. Some of my best friendships have come from the VFW.

Over the Summer I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the State Convention in Eugene and also a School of Instruction in Redmond. I don't think I really realized how important this organization really is until then. And also how many people truly care about our Veterans. I am very proud to be a member and do my part to help our Veterans. I have chosen to make the Fisher Home my project for this year. The Fisher Home gives the families of injured Veterans a place to stay free of charge while their loved one is in the hospital recovering. By doing this the families have one less thing to worry about. The houses are donated but the upkeep comes from donations. I believe this is an awesome program for us to support. At our last meeting the Auxiliary voted to donate \$500 to that program. That was great! I plan to do some fundraisers as well this year for this program.

Sisters, as my final thought I would like to say, lets make this a terrific year. Get involved, come to meetings and have your voices heard. I welcome any ideas you may have to make our Auxiliary even better

Thank you,

Lori Merritt, President

(Calendar on page two)

From Your Editor

Jackie Key

Here it is the first issue after our summer recess. Time to get the word out about all the good our Post and Auxiliary do for our veterans. Vow to get involved this year and make a difference.

Committee reports should be turned in by September 20, for the October newsletter.

Contact your editor at:

Jackie.Key@vfw4273.org

The Post Chaplain

Nick Roth

We lost three of our comrades in July. We extend our condolences and deepest sympathies to the families of Ken Courtain, Byron Skarwold, and Art Hickman. Victor Bodly passed away in August. In addition to these loses we received word that recently retired Department Quartermaster Claude Key passed away. A number of comrades from Sandy attended the service. And past Post Commander Byron (Bud) Pullen passed away on 23 August. Our condolences and best wishes go out to his wife Snookie and his family.

We offer our helping hands to their families. We ask for healing and comfort for our seriously ill comrades: Gary Brandon, Denny Bridges, and Harley Thompson, who recently was moved to assisted care at Avamere. We ask for God's healing mercy and comfort. Our Charter will be draped in a memorial service for our five departed comrades. God Bless them all and keep their families in our payers.

The Auxiliary Chaplain

Bonnie Hershberger

Over the summer we received news about the loss of two of our sisters.

Juanita Winn passed away March 3, 2007.

Betty Brewer passed away May 16, 2007.

Our condolences go out to their families.

We also send our deepest sympathy out to Bud Pullen's wife, Snookie and family.

May God Bless us one and all.

Calendar

Breakfast/BINGO (Aux)	Sept 9
House Committee (5:30)	Sept 12
Post/Aux Meeting/Dinner	Sept 14
Work Party Clean up Post	Sept 18
September Birthday Party	Sept 22
Work Party Paint the Post	Sept 23
Breakfast/BINGO (Post)	Sept 23

Applications for a Men's Auxiliary are being taken. The requirements to join are similar to the women for the Women's Auxiliary. If you know of any man who might be interested in joining, please contact Bob Dunn or Larry Merritt. We now have 18 people. As soon as we get 25 we can petition to the state for our charter.

County Veterans Service Officer : A representative from the County's Veteran Service Office will be available in Sandy at the VFW Hall, from 10 AM to Noon, the third Thursday of every month, continuing on September 20th. The county offers a free service to assist veterans and their eligible dependents in filing for, advocating for, and obtaining federal VA entitlements and other pertinent ancillary benefits. If you have questions about your entitlement to VA benefits, including using the VA for health care needs, or you need help with filing a claim or an existing claim, please stop by the VFW Hall during one of their visits. Please also feel free to come by to get acquainted or to ask questions about VA benefits. If you are unable to come in during their visit to Sandy, please contact the County Veteran Service Office at 503-650-5631 for assistance.

**Fundraiser
Breakfast
for Fisher House
Sept. 9th
10:00—12:00
BINGO at 1 PM**

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	Todd Kruckenberg	Jr. Vice President Helene Hawkins
Chaplain	Nick Roth	Treasurer Jackie Key
Quartermaster	Ken Hershberger	Chaplain Bonnie Hershberger
Adjutant	Allen Anderson	Secretary Dora Fitzpatrick
Surgeon	Jim Mitchell	Editor Jackie Key

Thank You for Your Service

Thank you for your service. Effective 25 July 2007 the Eagle Creek Golf Course is offering a 20% discount to members in good standing in the VFW and/or American Legion. This discount is good for any day of the week. Green Fees are as follows: 9 holes for \$8.00, Power Carts \$9.00; 18 holes for \$15.00, Power Carts \$18.00. Be prepared to show your ID card. This is their way of thanking you for your service to the defense of this nation. If you wish to make a tee time the number is 503 630-4676.

If you would like to help with any of the following youth programs please contact your Post Commander or your Auxiliary President.

Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and/or the Patriots Art Contest. You can help students in our area win scholarships with these programs.

CANTEEN CORNER

Lori Merritt

I invite all of our new members to come in a check out the facilities. And to our long time members who have been away awhile, get back in here! We have some fun activities planned for this month so check the calendar for dates and times. And now for some thanks to:

- *Dan and Dora for hosting the 4th of July Party.
- *Our Commander for organizing such an impressive convoy of vehicles for the parade.
- *Carol Engblom for all those signs for the parade.
- *Larry Merritt for directing all the parade vehicles into their pre-parade locations.
- *Rick Chavez for cleaning up the front of the Post.
- *Charles Jordan who helps me out every day at the post.
- *Bert Key for organizing the Fall Golf Tournament.



- Message from District 15 Commander
- Congratulations on a very successful 2006-2007 year. Your selection as an All-State Post means that the State Commander realizes that Post 4273 is one of the top Posts in the State. You have continued to demonstrate this year after year. Your District 15 was selected as an All-American District for 2006-2007. This is the highest honor that the National VFW Commander-in-Chief can give a District. District 15 is one of only 32 Districts so honored world wide. Sandy Post 4273 has over one third of the District strength and this All-American status could not have been obtained without the leadership, dedication and hard work of your Post Commander, the Post Officers and members. **Thank you very much** for your continued support, and commitment to VFW programs, veterans and your community. It is a great time to be District 15 Commander when I know I can count on the largest Post in the District to be a top performer. Keep up the exceptional work.
- In Comradeship, Jason Carroll, District 15 Commander



FOOTBALL/MOVIES

Beginning on Monday, 10 September we will host Monday Night Football Parties every week in the Canteen. You will feel up close and personal watching Football on our wide screen TV. So plan on joining in the fun and camaraderie of watching the game with some of your best friends.

On Thursday, 13 September we will begin our Thursday Night at the Movies and popcorn/pizza program at the post. The movie for that night is, "Wild Hogs". It is a great film, even if you have seen it before. Helmets are not required for this film. The next Thursday we plan to start showing the HBO special, "Band of Brothers". It will play for two hours per night for five Thursdays. It is an absolute terrific tribute to some of our "Greatest Generation" veterans. Movies begin at 6:30 PM.

Quote of the month:

Definition of a Veteran.

A Veteran is someone who, at one point in his/her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to and including my life." That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

-Author unknown

We need volunteers and equipment to help clean up and paint the post on 18 and 23 September. Please help. Contact Bert and/or Loretta.



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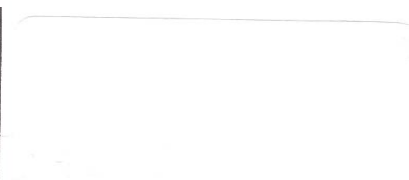
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