



THE SALMON CREEK POST



<http://www.post176.com>

Phone: (360) 573-2331

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October 2011 *Salmon Creek American Legion Post 176 * Vancouver Wa..* VOL24 No 123

Commander:

Roxeanne Boose 695-5935

1st Vice Cmdr:

Greg Whitson 695-5456

2nd Vice Cmdr:

Sally Garcia 735-5007

Adjutant:

Mike Gibson 694-8005

Finance Officer:

Phil Yasson 574-1152

Chaplin:

Jerry Keen 907-9473

Historian:

Edith Levulet 487-6849

Sgt. At Arms:

Craig Hurley 718-8099

Jr. Past Commander:

Wayne Sharp 892-0086

Service Officer:

Jan Wojciechowski 573-3230

Board Members

John Treosti 574-5746

Jonathan Frederick 576-9078

Gary Zilm 576-0774

COMMANDERS NOTES:

The year is almost gone again! We are starting to look towards gearing up for the holiday season which is moving in on us rapidly. Let's see what's been happening.

We installed most of the new officers at the Sept. meeting but we have a couple to still do. The new alarm system is in. We've had a few problems with equipment breakdowns - luckily nothing we couldn't get fixed and be able to financially cover. The construction is moving along and looks close to being done. Bingo is still hanging on and we are currently working with a skeleton crew, which is awesome. Everyone is working hard and getting the job done so we can get through this low time - great teamwork!

I came across some info I thought I'd pass along as it's a huge issue these days, and that is **Identity Theft**. Did you know you can get a free credit report from each of the three national credit agencies each year? You can call 1-877-322-8228, or write to the Annual Credit Report P.O. Box 105281 Atlanta GA. 30348-5281 or go to www.annualcreditreport.com to set up your free annual reports. Since you get one from each agency per year, the best thing is to set them up so you receive them at different intervals during the year. The three agencies are Equifax 1-800-525-6585, Experian 1-888-397-3742 and TransUnion 1-800-680-7289 - these are the numbers to contact if you suspect fraud.

How do you know if your information has been compromised? You should be checking over all bank statements, credit card statements and unusual mail to see if you have unknown bank withdrawals, credit charges or statements that you never signed up for. Sometimes we can flip right past things if we don't take the time to really look. Sometimes we look at who it's from and decide not to open it because we don't have an account with that company - take the time to check it out. Even if it isn't in your name it could be your social security number and address. Sometimes what is unusual is you won't see anything - your mail will just stop arriving. Diverting your mail to keep you from seeing the mounting bills is a tactic thieves use. If you see anything unusual, you need to act immediately.

POST HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

CLOSED - FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY

Close the account, file a police report, file with the Federal Trade Commission and dispute the charges by signing an affidavit with the company. Some of your consumer rights are "time sensitive" so act quickly. You can contact the credit companies to request a "Fraud Alert" be placed on your file.

Keeping your information private is harder and harder these days. Shred all thrash with your name, address, credit numbers, account numbers, anything you toss away. Don't forget to be careful with social media. People give all kinds of personal info on Facebook and other sites. Your pets name, your bank name, your favorite color, activity, or pet names for loved ones, kids' names or even favorite places should never be used as passwords. If you use Wi-Fi your information can be picked out of the air so be careful what you say and where you are while using it.

There's another type of fraud that's gaining popularity - Medical ID Theft. Some people use it to receive medical treatment; others use it to bilk your insurance company. If you receive a statement for services, check it over and make sure it's treatment you received. Fraud not only increases the cost of insurance, it could be dangerous to have someone else's health information in your health record. When you have an appointment and the clerk goes over your information make sure it's all correct. If something doesn't match let them know immediately.

If you have the misfortune to receive a letter from the IRS saying your tax records do not match, you could be a victim of Tax Fraud. Someone is using your Social Security number to work under or receive benefits. You should contact the IRS immediately and they will connect you to an Identity Protection Specialist who will work with you to resolve the issue. You can get information on their website or contact 1-800-9084490.

Remember, just because you deleted everything off your old computer before you gave it away or recycled it, your information can still be recovered off of it. Only a Wipe Program will totally clean your information out.

Protect yourself, keep your information safe. If you find something questionable; question it! Don't forget to pass this information on to family and friends so we will all stay safe.

Roxeanne Boose' Post 176 Commander

EVENT CALENDAR

Oct 7 - CMAC meeting at Forty et Eight, \$6 breakfast buffet begins at 6:30am, meeting at 8:30am.

Oct 8 - CVI monthly meeting and Brotherhood Ride meets at the new VFW building at 9:00am.

Oct 10 - DAV monthly meeting meets at the Church on the left side of MacArthur, past the school at 7:00pm.

Oct 10 - Columbus Day.

Oct 13 - American Legion Post 176 general membership meeting begins at 7:00pm, potluck dinner and social begins at 6:00pm.

Oct 21 - CMAC meeting at the Forty et Eight, \$6 breakfast buffet begins at 6:30am, meeting at 8:30am.

Oct 24 - Cowlitz County Stand Down will be held at the Longview Armory.

Oct 27 - Post 176 e-board meets at the Post at 6:00pm.

Oct 31 - Halloween.

FINANCE OFFICER

Don't forget that you can renew your 2012 dues online using your credit card. It's much faster than mailing it in. Go to <http://www.legion.org/renew> and fill in the blanks. When I get a report, I will mail your card to you. Our renewals for 2012 are now at 263.

Some of you have changed your e-mail address without letting us know. This results in the non-delivery of the monthly newsletter. Last month we had six addresses returned. You can send your e-mail address or a new address via our web page at <http://www.post176.com> or direct to scal@pacifier.com or gmscal@pacifier.com. For every e-mail address we have, we save 31 cents on postage.

We now have a security system installed at the Post. There are two 360 degree cameras inside the building, and one outside covering the Northeast end of the building and the parking lot. All activities are recorded on a computer so we can check back if we find a problem or law enforcement needs to have information from the system.

Many e-mails are sent with SCAM attachments, so be very careful about opening one from someone you do not know. The message will read, "open attachment to find out..." I know of several people who have bitten on it and opened the attachment. Goodbye computer.

We have had a lot of equipment breakdowns at the Post during the last several weeks. The first to breakdown was the dishwasher, then the ice machine and then the large two door commercial refrigerator. I hope that is the end of the breakdowns.

With the weather turning vicious around the world, you may want to consider purchasing a Weather Radio. These radios are tuned to the National Weather Service Radio Network.

If a bad weather pattern is heading our way, you will get instant information on it and instructions on what you should or should not do.

Phil Yasson Post 176 Finance Officer

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Father,
Thank You for each and every day You have blessed us here on earth.
Thank You for Your tender mercies.
Thank You for giving us friends and family to share these joys with.
I ask you to bless my friends, relatives and those I care deeply for who read this.

Where there is joy, give them continued joy,
Where there is pain, give them your peace and mercy.

Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence.
Where there is need, fulfill their needs.

Bless their homes, families, finances, their goings and their comings.

Jerry Keen Post 176 Chaplain

BINGO MANAGER

Fall is here. We are looking forward to business picking up. We still have some road construction going on but at least our entrances are open. Our Hot August Nights was a big success. The attendance for the night was 188 people. There are plans to have another fun night like our Hot August Nights in December for a Christmas special. The specials for October are Monday afternoons, Pick a Pumpkin, Tuesday evenings, Spin the Wheel and Wednesday afternoons game 20 is \$1,000.00, and Wednesday nights game 20 is \$1199.00. The video surveillance has been installed and is recording activities into a computer. We look forward to seeing you come and play BINGO.

Jen O'Neal Post 176 Bingo Manager

FROM A MEMBER`

The American Legion is a great organization that promotes activities to support and provide benefits to our military members who are serving their country. Active and retired members including those members from the reserve and guard are all welcome to attend our meetings at Post 176.

MONDAY LUNCH, Post members and guests are always welcome to come and join us for lunch and to enjoy some good times with fellow Post members. It is another way to get together.

We have all enjoyed the potluck dinners on meeting nights and the annual picnic. It is a good time to enjoy the company of fellow and prospective members. If you have a friend who was in the military, retired or active, or any veterans, invite them to come in for lunch from the kitchen staff.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, Disasters are known to all of us from watching the news and by reading the newspapers about floods, earthquakes, eruptions and tsunamis to just name a few. Some of these have happened in our own area and will continue to happen when we are not expecting it to. We must all be prepared to deal with any kind of disaster that may happen at any time. We have pamphlets in the lobby at our Post that are free and will give some good information about what to do and not do during a disaster. Things like what do we need to help survive for 72 hours in case we are stranded and help can't reach us right away. How do we get in touch with distant family members and where do we meet with immediate family and-or friends. How much food and water, clothes, radio, batteries, first aid kit, flashlights and lanterns to name a few items. What is our route of evacuation in case we have to leave the area. There are also community classes on preparing for a disaster and we should all try to attend one to get the best information, but please do stop by the Post and pick up a couple of pamphlets. Get all of your family together and work out a plan you will all know about and practice it so no one has to wonder about what to do.

EVENTS, The 911 ceremony at the amphitheater next to the Quay, and the POW/MIA ceremonies at the VA Hospital area were well attended. We must remember these events, not just on a designated day, but every day, and NEVER forget what so many Americans have given so we can be a FREE country. The VA and our Government are working with other countries to help recover any living POW's and the remains of our MIA's. We as individual veterans need to help educate our communities about suffering and sacrifices our military members and their families go through, even unto death as many who serve may never return to our land. We must do our most to make the young people aware so we don't lose our tradition and history. That they learn the true meaning of sacrifice, suffering and loss, That they honor those who have paid for their freedom and that they will be willing to help preserve it by their own sacrifices.

HALL RENTAL IS NO LONGER OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC.
CALL 360-573-2331 FOR INFORMATION OR
RESERVATIONS

BINGO HOURS 11:00AM-6:30PM
MON - TUE - WED
PULL TABS AND KITCHEN AVAILABLE

October

2011

AUXILIARY NEWS

How about doing something special this month for the children of Veterans since they'll be having fun especially on Halloween. Share your ideas.....

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Debra Hathaway 573-0336

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Carla Whitson 695-5456

SECRETARY

Donna Casciato 576-4404

TREASURER

Thelma Hathaway 573-0362

CHAPLAIN

Lucille Harwood 573-6723

HISTORIAN

Roberta Gapsch 666-1685

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING, THURS. OCT. 13

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, 7 P.M.

PRISCILLA FORD, DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT, GUEST

Please join us for this very special once a year occasion to be at the American Legion Hall in Salmon Creek. Members and guests may attend the potluck at 6 p.m. for food and fun ahead of the meeting.

DISTRICT 5 CONFERENCE

SET FOR OCTOBER 23

Come Sunday to Smith-Reynolds Post 14 at 4607 NE Saint James Road. Vancouver for social hour 10 to 11 a.m., joint meeting at 11 with dinner at 12 and meeting 1 to 4 p.m.

Dinner cost is \$10. Lee Phillips will take reservations: Phone: 360-256-4127 or:

e-mail: leep777@comcast.net

Dinner menu is 2 Salads and Bouillon of Beef (Roast Beef). Come to the Fall Conference, meet and greet friends, learn what's going on in the District and help the Legion and Auxiliary continue to do good work

PRESIDENT'S

MESSAGE

Hello Ladies:

We have our new officers! They are as follows: Debra Hathaway, President; Carla Whitson, First Vice President; Donna Casciato, Secretary; Thelma Hathaway, Treasurer, Lucille Harwood, Chaplain.

Our monthly meetings are at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month. We also have a potluck at 6 p.m.

I'm pleased to announce our District President Priscilla Ford will install our new officers. I hope to see you there.

Debra Hathaway

YOUR CHAPLAIN WRITES

Thanks to those of you who tell me you read and enjoy my column.

All of us should as my mother used to say, "Put our best foot forward." What an opportunity we have to do good works in the name of our Blessed Lord.

Yesterday when I spoke to a Missions group of 10 people I emphasized that we should not look at talented folks and say, "I have no talents." I told them about a teenage girl who looked sad in class years ago. Her English teacher asked her what was wrong. She told him she was "a nothing." He asked her what she liked to do. She said write. He encouraged her. She wrote and wrote. Today she is a welcomed outstanding writer in **Guideposts** and other publications. Marion Bond West uses her talent to write.

I ask you to find what you like to do for others and do it. You are then a winner. Your good deeds will bless others.

Lucille Harwood

WE GIVE YOU BITS AND PIECES

Congratulations to our new officers.

Thanks to Secretary Donna for info. Besides Installation of new officers-- Lakeland Village, a raffle and budget to be discussed.

Thanks to Debra, Dale, and Thelma Hathaway for attending the annual picnic Saturday, the 24th, for volunteers at the VA hospital. The picnic was at Memorial Gardens on the VA Campus near the helicopter which was formerly at Post 176's Salmon Creek American Legion. Thelma said it was nice to see the helicopter and that there was a good group at the picnic.

Veteran Dale Hathaway drove his mother Thelma up to Lacey WA to Department Headquarters. Thelma turned in our officer list and picked up poppy kits she gives to Veterans who make poppies for the Department Project.

Chairmen are needed for various projects in our Auxiliary. Kids' coats, bring new ones to Fall Conference, Oct. 23rd.