



***Renton-Pickering Post 79
The American Legion
38625 River Street
Snoqualmie, Washington 98065***

The meeting of the Renton-Pickering Post 79 was held on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at 1800 at Post's building with the following officers present; the Commander (Steve Fenton), the Adjutant (Rick DeWitt), Senior Vice Commander (Rich Collingwood), and Junior Vice Commander (Wally Koering).

Mike Bryant opened with prayer.

Commander led members in the Pledge of Allegiance, Allegiance to the American Legion and declared the meetings of Post 79 open (1808 hrs)

Post Adjutant, Rick DeWitt conducted the roll call. The following members were present and constituted a quorum to conduct business:

Steve Fenton, Rich Collingwood, Wally Koering, Rick DeWitt, Bob Hamerly (Service Officer), Bill Hauge (Historian), Dave Lake, Art Farash, and Mike Bryant

There were no minutes from the last meeting.

Steve Fenton (Commander) reported on the Executive Committee Meeting that was held Monday, July 7th. The following items were discussed:

- Discussed the possible consolidation of the VFW with The American Legion into the Legion Hall and the designation of the hall as a Veterans Center. There still needs to be further discussion with the VFW on this matter.
- Reviewed our building renovation project with 4Culture Grant; the new grant awarded us \$7,900 which is normally more that is awarded on the 2nd go-around. We discussed the need to have the shingle siding analyzed for asbestos. Steve has a point of contact. Kathy Kerr mentioned that there is a new environmental company that now occupies the old DMV building just east of Snoqualmie. Steve will research if they do this type of work.
- We reviewed the Veterans Memorial project. They recently obtained a new artist to provide concept drawings. The next meeting is July 11th. As of tonight there are approximately 12-13 bricks sold. Wally asked if they would be organized by wars / conflicts. The answer was no but the names (52 identified so far) would be on the actual memorial. It was suggested that the brick project be advertised in the next newsletter (Rick or Steve will mention this to Sheryl).
- Discussed the upcoming Department Convention. A motion was made by Wally to offset the cost of Wally and Rich (Delegates to convention) expenses by \$150.00 each. Seconded by Bob, motion passed.
- Discussed a combined effort of the Post, Auxiliary, and the Riders on assisting wounded veterans. The consensus is to help local veterans.
- The Executive Committee will be meeting in the near future to draft the calendar for next year. It was mentioned by Katy Kerr to add the Memorial Dedication on Veterans Day to the Calendar. Anyone else with ideas or suggestions would be welcome to send them to Steve.

“For God and Country”

- We discussed the need to hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony in the Valley. We have received a draft of a ceremony that is supposedly the Legion Plan.
- Discussed the need to “professionalize” the Honor Guard and Color Guard functions of the post. Art Farash volunteered to lead this function.

The Adjutant gave a report of membership of the Post. Post 79 memberships are currently at 94 members (which includes 8 PUFLS). Renewal notices for the 2009 year have been sent out with 12 received back. They and 2 new members (recruited by Rich Collingwood) will be processed this week.

Steve discussed the upcoming Railroad Days on August 2&3. He also solicited for volunteers and many people saying they would participate. Pam Collingwood addressed the need to have better brochures or publications for publicity purposes. She mentioned that what we used for Fall City days last month did not have an address, phone number, or website listed. Rick agreed to print up some labels as a stop gap method to be placed on all Legion pubs.

Kathy Kerr mentioned that she is now the new District Auxiliary President.

Sick Call items were discussed as listed;

- Dave Lake tries to visit Paul Mosher twice a month. Paul is currently getting used to a new prosthetic leg.
- Bill Walkers wife is currently in a rest home and not doing very well.
- Bill Taniguchi is currently under the weather.

Rick gave the financial report which was attached to the agenda. Some highlights were;

- The Post currently has \$3,695.95 in Checking / Savings
- Of that amount \$967.26 is designated funds (Poppy Sales and 4Culture Grant)
- Unrestricted funds totaled \$1,443.41
- Income for the last month was a total of \$468.56
- Total expenses for last month was \$845.75
- Actual Balance Sheet and Income Statement are available for review upon request (Contact Rick DeWitt at Adjutant@post79.org)

Bob Hamerly gave the Service Officer report. He recently received the new Service Officer Manual. HE also located small “all weather” stickers for headstones that say “Veteran”.

We discussed the possibility of a Potluck / BBQ for the month of September. It was decided this was a good idea and Pam Collingwood volunteered as the Coordinator. The Post would provide the meat and the Auxiliary would provide the trimmings. It was also mentioned about inviting some of the dignitaries from the Valley.

Rich reported on the activities of the Riders. Only one person showed up for the last meeting. This was due to many people being out of town or on vacations. The next meeting is on Saturday, July 12th. The meeting in September will be a dry run of the Benefit Run to be hosted next Year.

Steve shared about the two awards the Post received at the District Pre-Convention Dinner held last Sunday. They were a membership award for being one of 5 Posts to achieve 100% or above of membership. The second was an award for publicity. This was mainly due to the newsletter, but also for local publicity in the newspapers. Steve also read a card from the City of Snoqualmie thanking us for participating in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new city hall.

“For God and Country”

The next meeting will be on Thursday August 14th at 6pm. During our next meeting our Boys State Representative will be giving a report on his experiences.

Closing ceremony was conducted IAW with the Officers Guide.

Meeting was adjourned at 1921 hrs.

Respectively submitted,

Rick DeWitt
Adjutant