



# THE SALMON CREEK POST

www.post 176.com  
Phone (360) 573-2331



**DECEMBER 2016 \* SALMON CREEK AMERICAN LEGION POST 176 \* VANCOUVER WA. VOL 25 NO 147**

## COMMANDERS NOTES

### Commander

Gary Zilm 904-5544

### 1st Vice Commander

Greg Whitson 695-5456

### 2nd Vice Commander

James Moore 713-4954

### Adjutant

Mike Gibson 694-8005

### Finance Officer

Phil Yasson 574-1152

### Chaplin

Roxeanne Boose' 695-5938

### Historian

Tamara Elam

### Sgt. At Arms

Kelly Jones

### Service Officer

John Treosti 574-5746

### Board Members

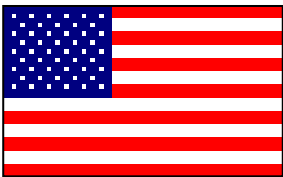
Walter Remme 574-2273

Jon Frederick 576-9078

Jerry Keene 907-9473

### Webmaster

Wayne Schuler 892-5580



It has been some time since we have had a newsletter to send to the membership, mainly because we have had no one who was willing to take on the task of doing it. It is time to let everyone know just what has been happening here at the Post so I guess it is up to me to do it once again. It has been almost a full time job for Phil Yasson and myself just getting everything coordinated so things happen in a certain order and in the time frames allowed.

Our antiquated HVAC system was having to have repairs done every month and parts were expensive and not always available so we were often left without either heat or cooling when we needed it the most. I got a few quotes and we picked Entek Corporation to supply and install a new system along with the installation and a service contract, where it is serviced every three months. It is nice not to have to worry about having heat or air conditioning every day.

We have had our bathrooms in the main Bingo hall upgraded to ADA specifications, starting from the floor, to include new commodes, urinals and sinks and counters. They sure look nice. Our kitchen has been remodeled from the floor dry rot being replaced to all new stainless appliances installed. We now also have a new walk-in refrigerator and walk-in freezer. We have a new dishwasher and wash sinks for the dishes. All the old cupboards and cabinets in the back storage room are gone and replaced with stainless shelving. Team Construction is the company doing the work and all but a few minor things are done.

We had carpet tiles installed in the large Bingo hall and a new carpet put in in the small hall. The parking lot has been re-paved and we now have a parking lot on the South side of the building and everything has been re-striped. We have an electronic sign outside with all the Bingo information flashing on it 24/7. There is a new electronic sign inside to replace the old handwritten message board no one could read from the front of the room.

We have a new flag pole which is 35' tall and 6" diameter bought from Elmer's flag and Banner in Portland who also installed it. We now have an 8'x10' flag flying from it and a POW/MIA flag below it. We widened the sidewalk on the North side of the building to accommodate wheel chairs. All the single-pane windows on the front of the building have been replaced with double-pane windows to help reduce our electrical bill. We also have an ATM that we purchased. Since we no longer accept checks for Bingo, the ATM gets a lot of use from our Bingo players and pays us \$3.00 for every transaction.

We have done a lot of improvements to the Post, but we still have things we want to do to help make this place safe and secure for all of our members both current and future members. We also have new LED lights on the outside of the building to help improve security for

### POST HOURS

**Monday –Wednesday 9AM – 9 PM**

**Thursday 8AM – 2PM**

**Friday – Saturday – Sunday, CLOSED**

Bingo players when no one is here. With all the construction of the Walgreens store and the drainage systems put in because of the low water table, we no longer have water puddling under the building, except one small area we have to address.

The sale of the South parking lot turned out to be a good thing for the Post as it was at the point where we needed to have it re-paved and no money to do so. The sale negated us having to do that and we no longer had to pay taxes on the portion we sold. The proceeds from the sale has allowed us to do things that had been left undone due to the lack of money for a lot of years, but we still needed to have done. Having the Walgreens store next door also provides us with extra security from their cameras and we have gained new Bingo players and new members who have joined the Legion. So I feel the sale has been a win-win situation. The proceeds from our daily Bingo has been bringing in enough revenue to pay bills and put a few bucks in the bank so we have a small cushion to rely on when taxes and insurance come due. All in all, your Post is doing pretty good compared to three years ago. The money from the sale has been invested in an Edward Jones account and is used for capital improvements to the Post and Post property. Most repairs come out of Bingo and Post accounts. None of the money is used to pay any monthly bills and no Legion member or employee receives any wages from it.

The 5th District, which we are a part of, had to make a couple of tough decisions during the last year on two of the fifteen Posts in the District. They had to close the Woodland and Battleground Posts because the number of members dropped below the numbers required to stay open. Attendance at the monthly meetings were down to just a few. After trying to help them with their membership, it was their only choice left. It is so important to each Post for it's membership to participate by attending meetings and to help with finding and signing up new members whenever they can or by sending them to the Post to be signed up. I have been able to sign up five new members and three transfers from other Posts so far for 2017.

Our member meetings are the second Thursday of the month. We have a pot-luck at 6pm. The meeting starts at 7pm and usually only lasts about an hour. If you don't want to come to the pot luck, at least give about one hour a month to help your Post stay open by attending the membership meetings.

Our membership goal as put out by the Department of Washington is 281 members. We have 212 who have renewed their dues for 2017. Our number of 281 is the difference of the 71 people who didn't pay their dues for 2016. We were at 352 for 2016. If you would prefer to renew online, the Department has a site for you to do that at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew). You can still send the dues in by the postal service or you can drop by the Post and pay your dues.

We are still playing Bingo three days a week at the Post, M – T – W, at 11:00am and at 6:30pm. We have some pots as high as \$7500.00 and every Wednesday we have a guaranteed pot of \$1000.00 in the daytime session and \$1199.00 at the night session. So, there is money to be won, but you need to show up and buy in to win it. We will also have a guaranteed pot of \$10,000.00 during the evening session on the 14th of December on our Pick 8 game, if it is not previously won before then. As of this printing, it is at \$7950.00 and increases with each session we play.

We also now have Poker games here at the Post, but we cannot charge for them and we cannot make any profit off of them. It is for members to get together and play cards and have some fun. If you would like to set up a game on Thur – Fri. let me know and how many will be attending.

At the Oct 13th membership meeting it was decided that our Christmas dinner party was going to be on the 10th of Dec at 6pm. It is going to be a combined party of the Legion and the VVA and it will be a gift exchange of Christmas ornaments. Bring one and get one. The VVA has also told me that the Vets who are going to Clark College and their families are also being invited. Music has been arranged and the food has been set up to be ordered for the complete dinner from Albertsons. No one has to bring anything except an ornament for the gift exchange. There is no cost to attend this dinner. We are wanting to get as many members from the VVA and the American Legion to attend so there can be some information exchanged with the younger Vets from Clark College and that we can hopefully convince them that they are the future of our organizations and maybe some of them will join our Post.

I would like to ask each of you to confirm that you are or are not able to attend the dinner to give us some idea of how much food to order. We want to be sure everyone gets enough to eat.

You can call 360-573-2331 or e-mail [scal@pacifier.com](mailto:scal@pacifier.com).

I would also like to hear from you with some ideas of what we can do at the Post to have more and different activities for our members to be involved in; something that can be done a couple times a month or more.

*Gary Zilm*

*Commander Post 176*

***There is no cost to attend the  
Christmas dinner at the Post.  
December 10 at 6 pm.***