

## Fall 2009 Conference Minutes



### **Third District American Legion Fall Conference 2009**

Master of Ceremony: Third District Commander, Roth Hafer

Location: Post 30, Port Orchard, Washington

Post Commander Hosting: P.J. Scott

Time and Date: 1700 to 2112, September 25, 2009

#### Guests:

Bob Schwartz, Department of Washington Commander

Bob Wallace, Alt NEC Man

Larry Granish, Area II Commander

Jake Cabuag, Area I Commander

Dale Davis, Department of Washington Adjutant

Ken Lee, Department of Washington Membership Chair

Ron Coglon, District 3 Vice Commander

Tom Patterson, District 3 Adjutant

Paul Young, District 3 Chaplin

Jim Goodman, District 3 Sgt-at-Arms

Robert Donaldson, District 4 Vice Commander

Kathy Kerr, Washington Department President, Ladies Auxiliary

Eva Wallace, NEC Woman

Jane Montaney, Washington Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Ladies Auxiliary

Peggy Brown, National Western Div. Vice President, Ladies Auxiliary

Ellen Johnson, District 3 President

#### Posts in Attendance:

Post 30, Port Orchard

Post 62, Sequim

Post 68, Bremerton

Post 149, Bremerton

Post 172, Bainbridge Island

Post 182, Retsil

Post 236, Gig Harbor

Post 245, Poulsbo

#### Absence:

Post 26, Port Townsend

Post 29, Port Angeles

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1700 – Meet and Greet

1745 – Commencement of Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Reciting of the American Legion Constitution

Introduction of Legion Guests by Commander Roth Hafer

Introduction of Auxiliary Guest by NEC Woman Eva Wallace

1756 – Presentation

Presentation of 3<sup>rd</sup> District Adjutant hat with a Past District Commander Pin to Past District Commander, Tom Patterson.

1800 – Post Everlasting

3<sup>rd</sup> District Chaplin, Paul Young reported the passing of John Butler, long time Legion member, and Past District Commander for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District.

1805 – Suspend the meeting for the evening meal.

1851 – Reconvene the meeting.

3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander, Roth Hafer, re-introduced to membership in attendance:

Bob Schwartz, Department of Washington Commander

Larry Granish, Area 2 Commander

Ken Lee, Membership Chair

Robert Donaldson, District 4 Vice Commander

Dale Davis, Department of Washington Adjutant

Bob Wallace, Alt NEC Man

Darrell Heaton, Webmaster

Jim Goodman, District 3 Sgt-at-Arms

Herb Walmach, Adjutant Retsil Post 182

Ron Coglon, District 3 Vice Commander, Post Commander, Post 172

Review of Attending Posts Representatives

Introduction of 3<sup>rd</sup> District Service Officer, Post 172

Sharon Kirkpatrick

Discussion Points:

- Service officers needed
- Kitsap county Veteran's support programs
- Recommendation of having Legionnaires attend service officer training

Guest Comments:

Bob Schwartz, Department of Washington Commander

Discussion Points:

- Use of Department of Washington/District websites and internet / outreach
- Membership
- Recruitment of women veterans
- Focus on women veteran's issues

Department Commander's Goals for the up and coming year:

- Membership through the American Legion's Groups, the Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, Legion Riders, and the Legion's programs
- Education to the public about the American Legion

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- Use of the Four Pillars publications in membership recruitment
- Service Officer Training
- Disaster preparedness program to be fully utilized
- Promote the correct saying of the Pledge of Allegiance with the phrase “One nation under God” vice “One nation, under God”.
- Make the American Legion more visible to the citizens of Washington State instead of the “American Legion The best kept secret we know.”

Kathy Kerr, Washington Department President, Ladies Auxiliary

Discussion Points:

- Use Legion programs to increase visibility of the Auxiliary
- Increase volunteer numbers for field and home service
- Increase Junior Auxiliary membership and involvement

1914 – Break-out from the meeting the Ladies Auxiliary and a 10 minute recess

1921 – Resume meeting

1924 – Called to order

1928 – Department Adjutant, Dale Davis calls for post roll call and reports to District Commander Roth Hafer that, he has eight out of ten posts present and has a quorum.

1930 – District Commander Roth Hafer calls for post reports and visitations

Discussion Points from Posts:

- The service office in Poulsbo has been moved to the Poulsbo City Hall
- Kitsap County Veterans Services programs has surplus of money for Veteran’s needs.
- Support and sponsoring of Boy Scout programs in the posts of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District
- Support of the Girl Scouts
- Support for the Scouting Venturing program for young adults
- Oratorical program (Constitutional Speech Contest)
- Legion Baseball – the World Series will be held in Spokane this year
- Support for Jr. Shooting Stars programs at the post level
- Post 245, reports on its local “Freedom Walk” held on September 11, 2009
- Encouragement on getting an early start for next year’s Boys and Girls state

Discussion Points from 3<sup>rd</sup> District Vice-Commander Ron Coglon on Disaster Preparedness:

Discussion Points:

- Retiree seminar held at Subase Bangor on 18/19 September
- Complete your disaster preparations – Personal Survey forms
- Complete Shelter Survey forms for your post buildings
- Disaster Command Operations training is available in Bremerton
  - This provides community support to its citizens and the Fire and Police Departments
  - Search your membership for amateur radio operators, there is a need

Discussion Points from Area 2 Commander Larry Granish

Discussion Points:

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- Area II Workshop
  - Date – Saturday, October 17, 2009
  - Meet and Greet starting time 0900
  - Location – Grant Hodge Post 17, 111½ W. Main Street, Centralia, WA.
  - Phone – (360) 736-3755
  - Contact: Larry Granish, (360) 701-5921 or email lgrani@comcast.net

### Discussion Points from Alt NEC Man Bob Wallace

#### Discussion Points:

- Congressional interaction with Veteran's Budget, fast approval of Veteran's associated programs funding
- Medicare
- Slow Veteran reimbursements from the Veteran's Administration, efforts made to ensure a faster turnaround times on claims made by Veterans

### Discussion Points from Department of Washington Adjutant Dale Davis

#### Discussion Points:

- Use the American Legion's Website for your information – [www.walegion.org](http://www.walegion.org)
- Paid Up For Life (PUFL) changes made to PUFL payments; payments can now be made up to 36 months. However there is an increase in costs of up to 50%.
- Department Mid-Winter Conference, 5 to 7 February 2010
  - Location: Red Lion Hotel, 2525 N. 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pasco, WA.
  - Reservation Phone Number: 1-509-547-0701
  - Cost: \$95.00
- Department Summer Convention will be at the Great Wolf Lodge
- In support of Veterans; Welcome Home Ceremony, October 24, Bremerton
- Legion College: Legal Issues
  - 990 income tax forms for Non-Profit Posts, your non-profit status can be dropped if not filed for the past 3 years.

### For the Good of the Legion:

#### Bob Schwartz, Department of Washington Commander

##### Discussion Points:

- H.R. 3365: Medicare VA Reimbursement Act of 2009
- Become involved in change, contact your representatives in government
- Donations to the National Emergency Fund, pending state disaster in the Auburn Valley with flooding this coming winter.
- All Legionnaires are invited to participate in the Auburn Veteran's Day Parade; contact Post 79, and or Department for applications.

#### Roth Hafer, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander

##### Discussion Point:

- Read the following requesting support from the American Legion:  
To our American Legion Supporters,  
We are asking if you would support our 2009 Heroes' Welcome by attending our Honor Ceremony on Thursday November 5, at Jackson Park Community

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Center from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. followed by a Reception and Information Fair.

Captain Olson our NBK Commanding Officer mentioned again when he was briefed how wonderful it was to have the presence of the Veteran Organizations last year. In fact this year one of the vignettes will have stories from WWII, Korea and Viet Nam Veterans. The focus of this year's event will be how we used to know how to do homecoming "right", how we horribly lost it in the Viet Nam era and how we are committed to making sure our GWOT Warriors and families know how much we appreciate their extraordinary service.

I know that you have much to offer, having gone through similar times of war. It would be great to have an American Legion table at the Information Fair. I know having the motorcycle unit would appeal to our young men and women.

Please let me know if you would be interested in joining us. Thank you for all that you do!

Robin Moeller  
Work & Family Life Consultant  
Fleet & Family Support Program  
NBK Bangor  
robin.moeller.ctr@navy.mil  
360-396-5939

2110 – 3<sup>rd</sup> District Chaplin, Paul Young gave closing prayer

2112 – 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander, Roth Hafer gave closing comments and declared meeting concluded.

Submitted for Approval: Thomas L. Patterson, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Adjutant  
28 September 2009

Reviewed and Approved: Roth Hafer, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander