

NEWSLETTER

Shellsville Post 9639 - 8926 Jonestown Road Grantville Pa 17028-9524 - Phone: (717) 469-2195

COMMANDER - Fred Hechler

3rd Qtr 2007-2008

LADIES AUX. PRES. - Linda Smith

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Dear Members,

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and a belated Merry Christmas. Thank you for supporting the Post over the last year.

I would like to see a higher attendance at the Post's monthly meetings. The officer's are looking for ideas and input into the events and the future dealings of the Post.

Over the last few years it has been the older membership and the same ten to twelve people doing these tasks for the benefit of the membership and the Post. It is time for the younger members to step up and share these responsibilities. I am asking for volunteers and now is the time to give back.

With Spring right around the corner we must open the picnic grounds. The picnic tables need to be painted and cleaned, fallen leaves and branches need to be raked up and the equipment needs to be checked and repaired. The picnic grounds are rented throughout the summer and this is income generated for the Post. Please keep a look out for flyers posted in the Canteen giving the date and time or ask me, or call me. I hope to see a few new faces helping with this activity.

I would like to personally thank everyone who has donated items for the VA Hospital in Lebanon and Care Packages for the troops. It let's them know that they have not been forgotten.

One of the ideas being thrown around is holding a Past Commander's Dinner. This is a tradition that fell by the wayside that I would like to start up again. More information will be forthcoming.

Remember, keep the troops in your prayers and that they return home safely.



Fred W. Hechler, Post Commander

PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Sisters,

My deep appreciation to the 9 sisters and 6 Post members that gave many hours to give us the most monetarily successful Ham Dinner in many years! Thank you to all that attended and a Special Thanks to Ken and Gary for preparing all the delicious food. We could have used 2 or 3 more helpers as we were very

busy from the moment the doors opened. Also, it was the first time we know of that we had to close the doors due to a shortage of some food items (including donated deserts).

I am proud to say that we are able to co-sponsor with the Post entries for both the Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen. Thank you to Edith and Gary Schuler for their MANY hours devoted to these programs.

Easter is early this year. Mark March 22nd on your calendar now so that you will be able to help at our Easter Egg Hunt. We will also need help on the 19th to stuff the plastic eggs with candy.

We are discussing changing the Auxiliary meeting time to either 6:30 or 7:00 pm. The intent is to make it easier for more Sisters to attend our meetings and therefore be better informed as to what we are doing and where they may be able to lend their expertise. Please let an officer know your personal feelings on this issue.

Aspire to inspire before you expire.



Linda Smith, President

PERSIAN GULF VETERANS

August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991

Go to www.paveterans.state.pa.us for information on the Pennsylvania state bonus. See how to apply soon.

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Shellsville VFW Post 9639 remains the largest VFW Post in Dauphin County. Even though some of our Comrades have passed away, we constantly strive to remain the County's largest and most active VFW by recruiting new Veteran members. We are also striving to strengthen our Post Canteen through new Associate and Social members. It's great to see new members in the Post Canteen and becoming active in Post activities. The Post Canteen continues to provide quality meals and beverages at reasonable prices. **Remember, both our VFW Post and Post Canteen are non-profit organizations which means every cent above our operating and maintenance costs go towards programs for our members, deployed service members, veterans, local community and youth.** Please continue to use our Post Canteen and help support our many programs. Stop in the Post Canteen as often as possible and enjoy the food, drink, and comradery. Additionally, the Small Games Of Chance offered by the Post in the form of Pull-tabs and Raffles are the greatest source of revenue to support our Post's programs. The prize payouts of our games are higher than any casino or slots-parlor, so try your luck while enjoying your dinner and beverages. Playing these small games of chance support our many worthwhile programs. This brings me to **the primary fundraiser of the Post, the 15-week Raffle.** The 15-week raffle tickets are on sale now, at the bar or from many of our members. The ticket cost is \$15 and provides you 173 chances to win from \$25 to \$2500 as well as admission to the Post picnic on Sunday, June 1, 2008. The picnic alone is a great time, worth the price of the ticket. The prizes of the raffle total \$18,000 and only 2200 tickets are sold. The drawings are held each Wednesday for 14 weeks beginning on February 27, 2008, with the 15th week drawing held at the Picnic. **This is our main fundraiser to support our many programs.** Join us in this **FUN**draiser and buy 15-week raffle tickets. They make great gifts too!



**Be Proud and Support Your VFW
Tom Gordon, Quartermaster**

Please correct the VFW Pamphlet: Page 6;
Picnic Area rental fees should be Weekdays \$250, Saturdays and Sundays \$300

POST 100% IN MEMBERSHIP

Once again, Shellsville VFW Post 9639 has achieved the goal of 100% membership, for 2008. The total Post Veteran Membership, as of December 31, 2007, stands at 651 Comrades.

Since we have achieved 100% membership, by December 31, 2007, VFW Department Headquarters will award \$651 to our Post. These funds will go towards providing programs for our Veterans, youth and community.

Congratulations on a job well done!

VFW POST CANTEEN IMPROVEMENTS

In July the Post Canteen's Board of Directors conducted a survey of the Canteen's patrons, asking about their likes, dislikes and suggestions concerning the Post Canteen. There were 65 patrons who responded to the questionnaire and the Board of Directors has taken steps to address some of these concerns and suggestions.

Some of the most noticeable changes made in the Canteen;

- Installed two Smoke-eaters in the bar area.
- Designated the Banquet/Dining room as nonsmoking.
- Repaired or replaced worn furnishings.
- Improved lighting in the bar area, and
- Obtained an ATM machine.

These are only a few of the noticeable changes made by the Board of Directors. There have been other less noticeable changes made by the Board to ensure your enjoyment of the Post Canteen.

Did you notice the newly painted entrance to the Canteen? Or how about the new 32" TV? A Veteran and his wife painted the entranceway and a few other Veterans, who wish to remain anonymous, donated the new TV.

In the next few months other changes are planned, some cosmetic and some operational. The Canteen's Board of Directors appreciates your constructive suggestions and continually strives to improve the atmosphere and service in the Canteen. Please use the suggestion cards at the tables as an approach for positive changes.

All changes are made to benefit the members of Shellsville VFW Post 9639 Canteen, and decisions made by the Canteen Board of Directors are made on behalf of the VFW Post members. We value our Canteen members, whether Active, Associate, Auxiliary, or Social.

CANTEEN UPDATE

Dear Members,

Beginning January 14th the Canteen will be changing some hours. We will now be open on Mondays from 4 PM to 11 PM. We will be opening on Saturday at noon instead of 9 AM. The kitchen will not be open on Monday or Tuesday evenings, and on Saturday the kitchen will open at 4 PM instead of noon.

I would like to thank those who donated the money to purchase the new TV for the canteen. And to all those who volunteer at Hershey park as their earnings will allow us to finish replacing the ceiling tiles in the canteen shortly after New Years.

We have made our banquet room a non-smoking area for those of you who do not smoke. But this area is sometimes rented out and not always available for patrons service. If you desire this area, may I suggest you give us a call and verify it is available before you arrive.

Everyone is reminded that the monthly Canteen meeting is directly following the Post Active meeting (about 8:30 PM) on the fourth Thursday of the month. This is where you should discuss the canteen business not at the bar. Your feedback is helpful in making decisions on how to better serve you our members.

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and I hope 2008 is a prosperous one for all.

Kenneth Straub, Canteen Manager

Dates to Remember

- 1/1- Canteen Closed - Happy New Year !
- 1/17 - POST Auxiliary Meeting -7:30 PM
- 1/20 - Dauphin County Council Meeting - 2 PM
- 1/24 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 1/25 - 27 - Mid Winter Conference - Lancaster
- 1/29 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
- 2/10 - 18th District Meeting - 2 PM - Lower Allen
- 2/14 - Valentines Day
- 2/17 - 18th District VOD Banquet - Hummelstown 2PM
- 2/21 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 2/26 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
- 2/27 - First 15 Week Drawing - 7:30 PM
- 2/28 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 3/9 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 3/20 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 3/17 - Saint Patrick's Day
- 3/19 - Stuff Easter Eggs - 6 PM
- 3/22 - Easter Egg Hunt - 1 PM
- 3/25 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
- 3/27 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM

BUDDY POPPY DISTRIBUTION



During this past Veterans' Day weekend, 18 of our members volunteered their weekend time to distributed approximately **3,500 Buddy Poppies** to the public at K-mart, Wal-Mart, and Sam's Club.

During the four-day weekend the distribution of Buddy Poppies to the adults and American flags to the children brought in \$5,800 in donations. The Buddy Poppy distribution, during Memorial Day and Veterans' Day weekends, is the Post's second largest source of income to support our many Veterans' programs.

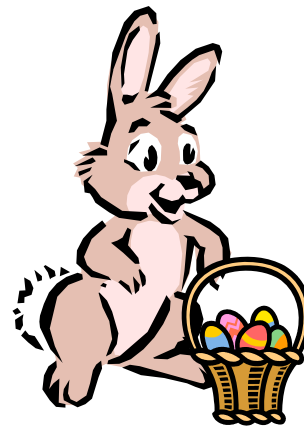
Thank You to the 18 members who volunteered their time during the Veterans' Day weekend, and **Thank You** to all who donated and wore the Buddy Poppies in remembrance of our fallen veterans.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT



March 22nd
1 PM Start

Gates at the Picnic Grounds Open At 12:30



FUN

PRIZES

EGGS

AGES 0 THRU 10 HUNT FOR EGGS

PRIZES FOR SPECIAL EGGS

A **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to
W L Geesaman Drywallers, for the use of their high lift and volunteering to paint the top of our flag pole.

Post 9639 Canteen Pool League Singles Pool League Report

The singles pool league is now a thing of history. After a hard fought 12 weeks Gary Koons emerged as the number one player with Tony Shustack being a close number two spot. It was an exciting league with the final standings only being determined in the final week.

Congratulations Gary and Tony.

This now brings us to the Doubles League. A meeting to determine the players for this league will be held Wednesday Dec. 26th at 7:00 PM. At this meeting a drawing will take place to determine if you made a Team and who your partner will be. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory if you intend to play. The date and time of the next league game will be 7:00 PM Tuesday January 8th.

LIFE MEMBERS PLAQUES

Annually we update the VFW Life Membership plaques on our Wall of Honor in the Post Canteen with the Names of all VFW Life Members, from 1947 through 2006. These 9 plaques contain the names of the 506 current Life Members and the 279 deceased Life Members of Post 9639. In 2007, there were 6 Comrades that became Life Members. These new Life Members will be added to the ninth plaque in early January 2008. The Ladies Auxiliary also have two plaques honoring the Life Members of our Auxiliary. If you would like to locate the recognition tag of one of our Life Members, ask one of our Canteen Staff for the alphabetical locator list, they will be happy to assist you.

15 Week Raffle / Fundraiser

Tickets for our 15 Week Raffle / Fundraiser are now available. We have again printed 2200 tickets, and are making them available first to all those people who previously had them. The drawings begin February 27th at 7:30 PM and run through the picnic on June 1st. Come out to the canteen for the drawings and try to punch out your own number. Also don't forget the picnic it's for all ticket holders, and everyone will enjoy themselves. Last year we realized over \$9,000 from this fundraiser.

A Special **THANK YOU** To
WAL*MART
For it's generous donation
of \$500 to POST 9639

BLOOD BANK

Every 3 seconds, someone somewhere needs blood. Chances are, you don't know this person, but tomorrow, it could be your friend, your neighbor, even your family member in need. The best way to ensure that blood is available whenever someone in our community needs it is to become a regular blood donor to the Post and the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank. Because the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank is responsible for 100% of the area's blood supply, the blood donated to the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank is used locally, to meet the needs of it's nine member hospitals.

Shellsville VFW POST 9639 has supported the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank for years. As a way to continue our commitment to serve our community please don't forget how important it is to give the "Gift of Life". It's not every day you have the chance to save a life.

WHEELCHAIRS NEEDED

Our VFW Post is in need of wheelchairs that are in good working condition. As a benefit to our Post members and to the members of our community our Post maintains donated canes, crutches, walkers, potty-chairs and wheelchairs to be loaned to individuals with a temporary need. Currently, we have very few wheelchairs and find that the requests for wheelchairs outnumber our limited supply. If you have an unneeded wheelchair in your attic or basement and wish to donate it, our VFW Post would be happy to receive it and loan it to those with a temporary need. Please contact us at 469-2195, and we can pick it up, if required.

TROOP SUPPORT

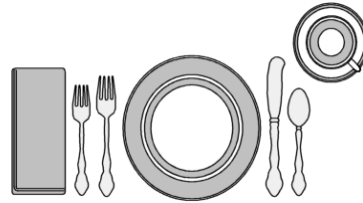
This fall our working group has sent 60 packages weighing over 1100 pounds to the Troops over seas. We still have more to send to two units that were just recently deployed and we are waiting to get their addresses.

Upcoming Friday Night Specials (subject to change)

→ **Check The Menu Board for Daily Specials** ←

- | | |
|-----|---|
| Jan | 4 - Chicken Supreme / Seafood Alfredo |
| | 11 - Baked Meatloaf / Broiled Seafood Platter |
| | 18 - Prime Rib / Beef Tips over Noodles |
| | 25 - Filet Mignon / Baked Haddock |
| Feb | 1 - Snow Crab Legs / Pot Roast |
| | 8 - Chicken Pot Pie / Broiled Crab Cakes |
| | 15 - Marsalis Chicken / Cajun Catfish |
| | 22 - 16 oz Porterhouse / Salmon Cakes |
| | 29 - Roast Beef over filling / NY Strip & Crab Cake |
| Mar | 7 - Stuffed Pork Chop / Baked Swiss Steak |
| | 14 - Shrimp & Broccoli Fettuccini / Pot Roast |
| | 21 - Rib Eye & Shrimp / Seafood Lasagna |
| | 28 - Cajun Haddock / Garlic Roasted Pork |

**COME OUT & ENJOY
A GREAT MEAL**



- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Kitchen Hours | |
| Mon & Tue | Closed |
| Wed | 5 PM to 9 PM |
| Thursday | 4 PM to 9 PM |
| Friday | 4 PM to 10 PM |
| Saturday | 4 PM to 9 PM |
| Sunday | 9 AM to Noon
4 PM to 8 PM |



**OPERATION CARES
APO AE 09354**



Dear Friend of OPERATION CARE:

Enclosed is a small token of our appreciation for your generous donations that support our effort to make Afghanistan a better country. Through contributions like yours and others, we have been able to give out humanitarian aid to thousands of Afghan men, women and children in hospitals, schools, villages, and refugee camps across this war-torn country. In addition, your generosity has also made it possible to provide hard-to-find snacks, toiletries and other personal care & comfort supplies to our service members stationed in outlying areas who might not otherwise have access to these items. Of course, our main effort has been, and remains, the future of Afghanistan - the children.

The OPERATION CARE program was first conceived in 2002 by two Indiana National Guard Soldiers and one U.S. Air Force Airman at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan with a vision for a better Afghanistan. Since then, the organization has grown to over 100 volunteers from all four services and located in several countries. So far, OPERATION CARE has distributed more than 60 tons of food, blankets, toys, school supplies, clothing, shoes and other humanitarian necessities to thousands of needy Afghans. With your help, we plan on expanding our programs to help the Afghan people even more next year!

The bottom line is this: without people like you, our work would not be possible. On behalf of the people of Afghanistan, whose lives have been enriched by your generosity, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Please remember to spread the word about our organization among your friends so that we may be able to continue our work here in Afghanistan.

Thank you from all of us! You are a true friend of OPERATION CARE! With your help, we are winning hearts and minds in Afghanistan... one child at a time.

vfw9639@verizon.net



vfw9639.org

Eshleman Pankake Wolf
Shellsville VFW Post 9639
8926 Jonestown Road
Grantville PA 17028-9524

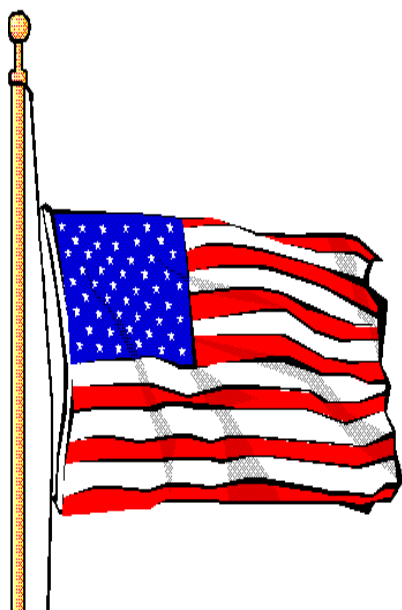
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRANTVILLE PA 17028
PERMIT No. 8

Address service requested



Lest We Forget

Departed Comrades - Sisters - Post Members



Dorothy A. Bonawitz	Lucretta M. Miller
Harold J. Conrad	Lucille F. Moyer
Maynard R. Danner	Della M. Neidig
R. Dennis Hoey	Harold E. Rearick
Gladys M. Lingle	Thomas A. Starnowsky
Reda Lingle	Aldora E. Zitch

America is number One thanks to our Veterans