

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER
PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/
MAY 2015

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 14, 2015

China Harbor, 2040 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, Washington

Time: Social hour at **6 p.m.**; Dinner served at **7 p.m.**; Program at **8 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE MEETING DOWNSTAIRS FOR THIS MONTH'S MEETING. ANOTHER EVENT IS TAKING PLACE UPSTAIRS ON MAY 14.

MENU CHOICES: Mongolian Beef, Chicken or Salmon

Dinner includes: salad, vegetable delight, General Tso's chicken, fried rice and fresh fruit.

Cost is \$21 for adults and \$10 for minors and college students, payable at the door, but reservations and meal choices are required. See below.

To make reservations and meal choices, use one of these options (most preferred listed first):

Click on <http://www.pscwrt.org/about/dinner-reservations.php>

Email **Rod Cameron** at: rodcam@comcast.net

Or lastly, call **Rod Cameron** at **206-524-4434**

Deadline for reservations is 12 NOON on Tuesday, May 12, 2015.

NOTE: *Remember to turn off cell phones before the meeting so there are no distractions for the speaker. Thank you!*

BARBARA BRUFF HEMMINGSEN WILL TELL OF THE BATTLES OF FRANKLIN AND OF NASHVILLE, the last major battles in the Western Theater.

The Union Army's capture of Atlanta on September 1, 1864 did not destroy General Hood's Confederate Army of Tennessee, which remained a threat to central Tennessee. When General Sherman left Atlanta for the sea, he ordered the 4th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to counter Confederate moves north towards Nashville. The armies fought at Franklin, TN, on November 30, 1864, and 14 days later outside Nashville. Barbara's great, great grandfather Joseph Bruff was at this time a field officer in the 125th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and participated in both battles. Her presentation will be illustrated with quotes from his letters and her photographs from the battlefields. A retired Professor of Microbiology, she is editing Joseph Bruff's letters for publication.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

Special Event Dedicating Monument to Civil War Medal of Honor Veteran

As members and friends of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table, you are all invited to participate in the dedication of a new monument to Landsman Amos Bradley, Civil War veteran and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. This dedication will take place on Friday,

June 12, 2015 starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Greenwood Memorial Terrace Cemetery, 211 West Government Way, Spokane, 99209. Phone (509) 838-1405.

Bradley was at the wheel of the U.S.S. Varuna during the battle for New Orleans, April 24, 1862 and was awarded the CMOH for his actions there. After the war he moved to Spokane where he died in 1894 and was buried in an unmarked grave.

As part of the program, Stephen Pierce has invited members of the 3rd Michigan Infantry and the 1st Michigan Artillery reenacting units to conduct the flag ceremony and add a unique flavor to the event. Both units have responded favorably. Given our geographical location, we have few opportunities like this. We hope you will be able to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Movius using the contact information at the back of this newsletter.

Annual Auction Report, April PSCWRT meeting

I am sorry if you missed the April meeting. We had a successful silent and live auction, with proceeds going toward the fund to bring in more great speakers to our monthly meetings. The total for the auction was **\$2,207.00** with the major items being a trip to a Mexican resort, original water colors and an offer to work on member's genealogies. Many other items were bid on as well and a fun time was had by all. Above and beyond that, speaker Ed Malles gave a very informative and interesting power point presentation on Civil War Photography which was very well received.

RAFUSE SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT

By Mike Movius

A few weeks ago, I began reading the latest book by William B. Styple entitled, McClellan's Other Story: The Political Intrigue of Colonel Thomas M. Key. Styple tells a story about Little Mac and his political advisor, Judge Thomas M. Key of Ohio. Neither man had much respect for President Lincoln. Moreover, it seems that the Little Napoleon had a rarified view of the South and secession such that he was keen to seek a separate peace with Confederate leadership without regard to the usual boundaries of a civilian controlled military.

As such, I formed a book review and forward the review and several questions (see below) to Dr. Ethan Rafuse, the gifted historian currently at the U. S. Army Command & General Staff College. Dr. Rafuse, you might recall, is an outspoken supporter of George B. McClellan, and I thought it would be interesting to get his take of the story.

This is the review I fashioned: William Styple's research into the activities and actions of Colonel Thomas M. Key is astounding! Most students of the Civil War understand that George B. McClellan was not very good in the field, despite his prowess as an organizer. And yet, few know about his underhanded attempts through Key to communicate directly with Robert E. Lee such that they would both maneuver their armies until both sides were tired of the "war" and negotiating directly with Robert E. Lee for peace while ignoring the Lincoln administration and Congress. This despicable man had the gall, arrogance and aspirations to thwart representative government and democracy for his own self-aggrandizement and power acquisition.

These are the question I posed, and his response:

1. Is that widely known among Civil War historians?
2. If his thesis is true, does this perhaps change your support for this rascal?
3. Or, where did I go wrong?

Dr. Rafuse's response¹:

This despicable man had the gall, arrogance and aspirations to thwart representative government and democracy for his own self-aggrandizement and power acquisition.

Read Marvel's new biography of Stanton if you want to go off on who exactly was "thwarting representative government and democracy for his own self-aggrandizement and power". Either Lincoln approved or Stanton did, was ignorant of it, or did not have the character to stop him. Choose whichever "despicable" interpretation you want. And for a guy supposedly so consumed with hunger for power that he was a danger to the republic, McClellan certainly let go of it awfully easily when directed to do so. In any case, McClellan had a responsibility to push back against policies he disagreed with. To do otherwise would have been dereliction of his duty to the country. And Lincoln had a responsibility to remove him if he believed their disagreement had reached a point that made their working together unfeasible, which he did.

I heard Style give a presentation on his research two or so years ago. Essentially his argument was that Key wrote a lot of McClellan's political documents. No one who knows how generals work would find the fact that they don't write their own stuff revelatory in the slightest. Second, McClellan's political sentiments were well-established before he met Key and consistent throughout his public career, so the suggestion that Key did McClellan's thinking for him is not really supportable. Third, McClellan fully reported Key's meeting with Confederate officials on the Chickahominy to Washington--it is certainly a very curious way of pursuing a conspiracy to give folks you know are hostile a heads-up on what you are doing.

Finally, if Key really was that important to McClellan in the grand conspiratorial ways Style suggested, there is no way Stanton and/or the Joint Committee--both of whom made no bones about being dedicated to the destruction of McClellan and everyone around him (see Porter, Fitz John) and their search for anything that by hook or crook would advance that end--would not have found out about it and made Key even more notorious than his brother was and had him thrown in jail (if not worse). Thus, there would have been no grand secret that needed 150 years to be revealed. Again, I have not read Bill's book and am going off his lecture--as well as simple common sense exemplified by Albert Castel's observation that if something is proclaimed to be new in a subject as well-studied as the Civil War it is probably not new, not important (as, say, the existence of some general's grand conspiracy against the republic would be), or simply wrong. But maybe Bill's book will persuade me when I finally get around to reading it.

ESR

Bravo!!

¹ Please understand that Dr. Rafuse had not read the Style book, but had heard the author lecture on the subject.

Jefferson Davis Howell - Confederate Navy Midshipman

By John Hough, PSCWRT Member

A prominent Confederate Navy veteran, James Morris Morgan, wrote a friend in 1918 noting the number of monuments to Confederate generals and decrying the lack of ones honoring famous Confederate Navy officers. However, on a gentle green hillside in Seattle's Lake View Cemetery a faded marble pillar stands among the large elaborate tombs of the city's founding elite. It was erected in memory of a Confederate Navy midshipman, a brother-in-law of Jefferson Davis, who after the war became a well-known West Coast steamship captain: Jefferson Davis Howell.

Jeff Howell was born November 9, 1846, to William Burr Howell and Margaret Kemp Howell in the prosperous river town of Natchez, Mississippi. He was the youngest of seven siblings. His eldest sister Varina earlier married Jefferson Davis in February 1845. When it came time to baptize the baby, Jefferson Davis was an army officer fighting in the Mexican War. Davis was credited with winning the Battle of Buena Vista, but was badly wounded during the fight. The family feared he would not survive so the baby boy was named after him.

Jeffy and his siblings, William, Becket and Margaret, lived in the family home in Natchez. But their father, William B. Howell, was a failure as a cotton broker and went bankrupt. To ease the burden on her parents, Varina took her younger siblings into the Davis household as they reached school age. The Davis family and Varina's sibling soon moved to Washington, DC, where Jefferson Davis represented Mississippi and was Secretary of War for President Franklin Pierce. Jeffy showed an independent streak, running away from school several times. Each time Varina sent him home to their mother to be "tamed," but then accepted him back. When the Civil War started in April 1861, Jeffy was living with his parents in New Orleans.

Jeff was only fourteen years old when Fort Sumter was fired on. Young men flocked to join the Confederate forces. But the official enlistment age was eighteen. Jeff surely chafed at being too young, especially watching his brothers go off to war. As state after state succeeded, Becket resigned from the U.S. Marine Corps and was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Confederate Marines. At the request of Captain Raphael Semmes, a Davis family friend, Becket joined him aboard the commerce raider CSS *Sumter* and later the famous raider CSS *Alabama*. William, a family man, became a valued navy supply agent in New Orleans, and when the Crescent City fell, he oversaw supply agents throughout the South from Augusta, Georgia.

New Orleans, gateway to the Mississippi River and the South's largest city, surrendered to Union naval forces under Admiral David G. Farragut on April 25, 1862. The entire Howell family, except Becket, fled to Georgia. Jeff Howell grew even more frustrated. Finally, in the winter of 1863, sixteen-year-old Jeff slipped away from home and, with a wink from a recruiting sergeant, he joined a Louisiana infantry regiment. His sister Varina, now the Confederate First Lady in Richmond, was appalled when she found out. Jeff was quickly transferred to the Navy and on February 24, 1863, was appointed a midshipman at the new Confederate Naval Academy in Richmond.

The Confederate Naval Academy was established in early 1863 aboard the steamer *CSS Patrick Henry*. She was anchored just down river from Richmond at Drewry's Bluff, on which sat a fort with several batteries of heavy guns. The warship was converted into a school ship, but she was also part of Richmond's defenses. The school was modeled on the U.S. Naval Academy, and included courses in seamanship, naval gunnery and artillery, geography, French, and infantry tactics, which would later prove useful. The midshipmen's studies would occasionally be interrupted to help man the guns on Drewry's Bluff to repel Union naval feints. In December 1863, Passed Midshipman Jefferson Davis Howell was assigned to the naval station at Charleston, SC, away from Varina's watchful eye.

Charleston was an exciting place in spite of the Union Navy's blockade of the city. An important commerce hub, blockade-runners frequently outsmarted the Yanks to export cotton and return with arms. Also, the Confederate Navy developed innovative ways to attack the blockade fleet. In February 1863, the *H. L. Hunley* was the first submarine to sink a warship, the USS *Housatonic*, but she was lost in the attempt. (She was discovered at the bottom of Charleston Harbor in 1995 and raised in 2000.)

Also, the Confederate Navy began harassing the blockading vessels with a new invention: an explosive device called a torpedo. One version was an explosive charge at the end of a long boom jutting out from the bow of a Confederate boat. The boat would attempt to ram the side of a Union warship with the torpedo, the explosion hopefully sinking the ship while leaving the Rebel boat unharmed. On October 5, 1863, the small torpedo boat *CSS David* attacked and badly damaged the warship USS *New Ironsides* off Charleston's harbor. The first floating mines, also called torpedoes, were also deployed to make the harbor approaches too dangerous for Union warships. No Union ships were sunk with these new inventions, but several vessels were seriously damaged. Confederate ingenuity effectively prevented the Union Navy from taking Charleston.

There was a lot of activity at the Navy Yard, but newly minted Midshipman Jeff Howell was given a more routine assignment. He commanded one of the guard boats that nightly rowed back and forth across the harbor between Fort Sumter and Morris Island. The sailors' role was to warn of any Union Navy attempt to attack the city. Union boats also patrolled to alert the blockading warships when a Rebel ship tried to run the blockade. But Howell was not content to just row back and forth. He captured a Union guard boat on Christmas Eve, 1863, only weeks after he arrived on station. A few weeks later he earned a reprimand, issued tongue in cheek, for one night planting the Confederate flag on the mooring buoy of one of the Union warships. It was not all pranks, however. Howell also participated in the dangerous job of laying torpedo mines in Charleston Harbor.

In January 1864, Commander John Taylor Wood recruited a naval party to attack a Union gunboat on blockade duty, a tactic Wood had used before. The plan was to row several small boats down the Neuse River to surprise the Union gunboat stationed at the strategic town of New Bern, NC. This was part of a coordinated attack by on the Union forces holding New Bern by troops under the command of General George Pickett. Jeff Howell was one of the enthusiastic naval volunteers. Before dawn on February 2, Wood's sailors captured and burned the gunboat

USS *Underwriter*. Pickett's effort to retake New Bern failed, but Wood's successful raid was cheered throughout the South.

Charleston was abandoned to General Sherman's forces in February 1865. Howell and the other sailors fled to Richmond. The sailors, familiar with heavy guns, were assigned to man the batteries on Drewry's Bluff. Davis Optimism was in the air.

However, the war would soon be over. On April 2, General Robert E. Lee was forced by General U.S. Grant's forces to withdraw from Petersburg, leaving Richmond uncovered. There was panic in the city. Warehouses were set afire. The CSS *Patrick Henry* was scuttled. President Jefferson Davis and most of his cabinet boarded a train and fled south. The midshipmen, including Jeff Howell, were assigned to guard the Confederate treasury being loaded aboard another train. As fires raged in the city, the treasure train headed south.

The Confederate treasury consisted of ten tons of gold and silver ingots, U.S. and Mexican coins, Confederate currency, and jewelry. Also on the train was specie from the Richmond banks. The treasure moved slowly south by train, then by wagons with the midshipmen walking alongside in rain and deep mud. Each time the midshipmen reached a town they thought safe they had to flee the advancing Union cavalry.

As the days went by, many of the midshipmen came down with dysentery and fever. Jeff Howell was one of those who collapsed. When he recovered he joined Varina and her children on the flight south. Soon Jefferson Davis and his bodyguards joined them. The Davis party continued south for a few days. On May 9 they stopped for the night outside the village of Irwinville, GA. In the early morning hours they were captured by Union cavalry. Jefferson Davis and several other prominent Confederate officials were sent off to prison. Eighteen-year-old Jeff was also imprisoned for several months at Ft. McHenry, apparently to spite Jefferson Davis.

After the war, Varina's mother took the Davis children to Montreal for their safety. The three Howell brothers soon joined them. William, Becket and Jeff spent their time drinking, gambling and chasing women. Jeff Howell grew tired of the idyll life. Seeking adventure, he went to sea as a common seaman aboard a sailing vessel.

Howell eventually arrived in San Francisco in 1870 as quartermaster of a steamship. A former Confederate commander, William Parker, was a captain with Pacific Mail Steamship Company and got Howell a job as a mate on the line. After only a few years he worked his way up to become the youngest steamship captain on the West Coast. But Howell was fired to give an unemployed former Union Navy captain his ship.

Howell was then hired by Goodall, Nelson & Perkins, a new San Francisco-based steamship company, to assess the market for additional service to the Puget Sound region. On his way north aboard the GNP steamer *Los Angeles*, the ship broke down off Oregon's Cannon Beach. Howell volunteered to row ashore for help. Two anxious days passed for the passengers while Howell and several seamen hiked to Astoria. As daylight faded on the third day, a storm began to push the stricken steamer toward shore. When all seemed lost, a tug, with Howell aboard, appeared

and rescued the stricken steamer. As a reward, GNP gave Howell command of the old paddle wheel steamer *Pacific*.

Howell made several runs in command of the *Pacific* between San Francisco and Puget Sound. He was a very popular captain and his ship was always full. But on the cold night of November 4, 1875, the *Pacific* struck a sailing vessel off the Washington coast. *Pacific*'s rotten timbers collapsed and she quickly sank. Over 300 souls drowned. They included prominent businessmen, society ladies, shopkeepers, and gold miners coming out for the winter. There were only two survivors. Howell was called a hero for perishing while trying to rescue a young woman. His fellow Masons erected in his honor the memorial that stands today in Lake View Cemetery

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A Brief Biography of Union General Edward R.S. Canby

By Rick Solomon, President, PSCWRT

We all know that Grant accepted Lee's surrender at Appomattox and that Sherman accepted Joe Johnston's surrender near Durham Station. Few know that the next biggest surrender was that of all Confederate forces west of the Mississippi by the South's Kirby Smith to the North's Edward R. S. Canby. So here's a brief biography of Canby.

Edward Richard Sprigg Canby was born on November 9, 1817 in Piatt's Landing, Kentucky. He attended Wabash College, but transferred to West Point, from which he graduated in 1839. Shortly after graduation he married Louisa Hawkins.

During his early career, Canby served in the Second Seminole War in Florida and saw combat during the Mexican War, where he received three brevet promotions, including to major for Contreras and Churubusco, and lieutenant colonel for Belen Gates. He also served at various posts, including Upstate New York and in the adjutant general's office in California from 1849 until 1851, covering the period of the territory's transition to statehood.

Canby served in Wyoming and Utah during the Utah War. During this time he served on a panel of judges for the court martial of Captain Henry Sibley who was acquitted. Subsequently, Canby wrote an endorsement for a teepee-like army tent which Sibley had adapted from the American Indian style. Then Sibley served under Canby in New Mexico in a campaign against the Navaho.

At the start of the Civil War, Canby commanded Fort Defiance, New Mexico Territory. He was promoted to colonel of the 19th U.S. Infantry on May 14, 1861, and was in command of the Department of New Mexico. His former assistant Sibley resigned to join the Confederate Army, becoming a brigadier general. Although Sibley's Army of New Mexico defeated Canby in February 1862 at the Battle of Valverde, Canby eventually forced the Confederates to retreat to Texas after the Union strategic victory at the Battle of Glorieta Pass.

Canby was promoted to brigadier general on March 31, 1862 and was transferred back East. After a period of clerical duty and immediately after the Draft Riots, Canby was made commanding general of the city and harbor of New York City.

In May 1864 Canby was promoted major general and relieved Nathaniel P. Banks of his command in Louisiana. He was wounded in the upper thigh by a guerilla while aboard the gunboat *USS Cricket* on the White River near Little Island, Arkansas on November 6, 1864. He commanded the Union forces at the fall of Mobile on April 12, 1865. Canby accepted the surrender of the Confederate forces Under General Richard Taylor in Citronville on May 4, 1865, and those under General Edmund Kirby Smith west of the Mississippi River on May 26, 1865.

After the Civil War served in Washington DC, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas. In August 1872 Canby was assigned to command the Pacific Northwest. During the Modoc War Canby attended a peace conference in the lava beds just south of Tule Lake on April 11, 1873. While in the middle of the peace talks the Modoc leader, Captain Jack and one of his lieutenants shot Canby twice in the head and cut his throat, killing Canby. The Modoc also killed Reverend Eleazar Thomas, a peace commissioner, and wounded others in the party. Canby was the only general to be killed during all the Indian Wars.

Canby's body was returned to Indiana and buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Indiana on May 23, 1873. At least four Union generals attended his funeral: William Tecumseh Sherman, Philip Sheridan, Lew Wallace and Irwin McDowell.

Eventually Captain Jack, Boston Charley, Schonchin John and Black Jim were tried for murder, convicted, and executed on October 3, 1873. The surviving Modoc were sent to reservations. The killing of Canby, and the great Sioux War, undermined public confidence in President Grant's peace policy, according to the historian Robert Utley. There was growing public sentiment for full defeat of the American Indians.

About five years ago I went to Lava Beds National Monument which is just south of Tule Lake which is, in turn, immediately south of the Oregon State Line. Tule Lake was a Japanese-American Internment Camp during World War II. In the Lava Beds National Monument is a large, white cross which marks the spot where Canby met his violent death. It is an area that is worth a visit.

See you May 14th!

Rick Solomon, President

PSCWRT: A Much Stronger Organization Than a Year Ago- A look back by President Rick Solomon

It takes a lot of people volunteering their time and efforts to make an organization work. I am pleased to report that due to the efforts of many members our Puget Sound Civil War

Round Table is a much stronger organization than a year ago in many different ways. At the risk of leaving someone out I want to thank numerous members individually.

First of all, Pat Brady has put together one of his finest slate of speakers this past year. We have had such great outside presenters – Hampton Newsome on October 1864 Battles in the Richmond-Petersburg area, Lance Rhodes on the Civil War in Film, Hon. Frank Williams on Lincoln, Terrence Wenschel on Vicksburg and this month Barbara Bruff Hemmingsen on the Battles of Franklin and Nashville. In addition Pat got members Steve Raymond, Nick Adams, Mike Movius, Stephen Pierce, Dick Miller and Ed Malles (twice!) to give presentations. All of them were very interesting. Good job Pat! Thanks to all of our wonderful speakers.

Next, we decided to move upstairs for our meetings because downstairs has too much ambient noise. When acoustical problems appeared Richard Kerr and Dick Miller took the lead in rectifying the problem by researching and acquiring a sound system. It is working beautifully. Thanks a ton Richard and Dick!

After that Ed Malles took the lead in getting us a new projector. Ed also took charge of the Ranger Program which helps new members and visitors feel more welcome at our meetings. Bravo Ed!

Mark Terry continues to put out the very informative *The Washington Volunteer*, our monthly newsletter. Rod Cameron has done a great job for dinner reservations and acts as a liaison to Lo Sun, the owner of the China Harbor. Jeff Rombauer continues to do a fine job as our Treasurer. Stephen Pierce stepped forward to run our annual auction this year. Dick Miller was his usual fantastic self as our Live Auctioneer. I believe that this was one of our most successful auctions ever. John Hinds has continued to contribute books as prizes in our monthly Trivia Quiz. Thanks guys!

For the first time that I can remember we had a field trip, this one to the Pickett House in Bellingham last January. The nineteen people that went had a great time. Next year I will coordinate another field trip, probably to Fort Steilacoom.

Lastly I would like to thank our Round Tables's Energized Bunny, our Vice-President Successor, Mike Movius. The busy Mr. Movius is constantly improving our Website, one of the finest of any Civil War Round Table in the world. He is deeply involved in our membership drive and using the social media to do so. His new member welcoming plan, which includes giving Minie balls to new members, is brilliant. Thanks Mike!

So, I encourage all members to get involved to make the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table even better. Besides serving as an officer I encourage you to give a presentation sometime. If you are interested in doing a presentation contact Pat Brady.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as PSCWRT's president the past twelve months and hope that the Round Table does even better the next twelve months.

Rick Solomon, President

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ- 150 YEARS AGO

May, 1865. With the war virtually over, there are endings and beginnings as well...

- (1) On May 23 & 24, 1865 the Nation's Capital held Grand reviews for the two main Federal Armies. Who went first, Meade's Army of the Potomac or Sherman's men?
- (2) Who were the commanding generals for each side in the surrender of all Confederate Armies west of the Mississippi on May 26, 1865?
- (3) What Confederate guerilla leader was mortally wounded near Taylorsville, Kentucky on May 10, 1865. Among those who rode with him during the Civil War were Frank & Jesse James and Cole Younger?

Bonus Question: On May 10, 1865 Jefferson Davis was captured near Irwinsville, Georgia, by what Federal unit?

DUES & DONATIONS

The PSCWRT season goes from September to the following May. Dues should be paid in September. Dues are payable either at the meeting or by mail: \$20 per individual, \$25 for a couple. Also, donations are gratefully accepted. These will help secure speakers for our meetings. Please note that all donations are tax deductible as the PSCWRT is a 501(c)3 organization. Mail to: Jeff Rombauer, Treasurer, 22306 255th Ave. SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038-7626. Call 425-432-1346 or email: jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com.

We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited. The deadline for the September 2015 Washington Volunteer is Monday, August 24, 2015. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!

2014-2015 OFFICERS

Elected:*

President: Rick Solomon, ricksolo@ricksolo.com

Vice-President-Successor: Mike Movius, webmaster@pscwr.org

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Vice-President-Programming: Pat Brady, 206-246-1603, patsbrady@comcast.net

Vice-President-Editor: Mark Terry, 425-337-6246, markimlor@comcast.net

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**Except for Past President, an automatic position.*