

## **Homeless on Market Street**

By Harold Rodenberger

With the continuing debate about homeless in Seattle, it is time to review our experience during the past three months since the temporary encampment moved in next door to our parking lot at the VFW.

As Quartermaster of our VFW Post I have a frontline seat. I also visit the camp at least weekly and am on a first name basis with the head of security.

When I visit the camp I ask if there are veterans who need help and repeat our standing offer to help needy vets. I have interacted with two. One, helping during the construction phase, said he had everything he needed including a housing voucher. He said he didn't want to move into an apartment but enjoyed staying in the camp. The other vet came by to ask if we could help him move his things to an apartment. I didn't hear back from him so went into the camp asking about him. His wife said they just had an apartment approved and are waiting to move in. She said she would help him find his DD Form 214 so we can provide assistance.



Overall, this camp has been fairly trouble free. There have been a few calls to the SPD for property crimes such as vandalized tents and theft. I don't have access to the blotter so don't know about all the police calls. I have smelled the distinctive aroma of marijuana smoke drifting across the fence when the wind is right and have watched people bootleg alcohol into the camp. I don't have a problem with people using their choice of legal stimulant, but the camp rules widely publicized during the public meetings specifically state that there will be no alcohol or controlled substances allowed in the camp.

During the public meetings prior to the encampment city officials said the camp would help decrease the homeless population in Ballard. Actually there has been a threefold increase in the number of homeless I see pushing shopping carts, suitcases or other collections of belongings up and down the sidewalk in front of the post now that the camp is in place.

During the community meetings one of the main arguments in favor of the camp was oversight and interaction by a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that was mandated by the ordinance. According to the *Seattle Times* (2/22/2016) a Community Advisory Committee has been formed and has met once, which comes as news to us.

The City may have had good intentions in drawing up the new rules to reassure nearby residents but it's turned out to be "politics as usual." Rules are not enforced now that the camp has been established.

Our homeless and our community deserve better than half-baked solutions and empty promises.

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The Post Newsletter is published monthly. Contact Charles Anderson with questions about material at

[editor@vfwseattle.org](mailto:editor@vfwseattle.org)

Post business meetings: First Thursday of each month at 1900. Social evenings with a catered dinner: Third Thursday each month at 1830. Doors open 1730 for both events.

Commander—Aaron Stoltz

Quartermaster—Harold Rodenberger

For full list of officers and other information, see our Web site [vfwseattle.org](http://vfwseattle.org)

## Quartermaster's Update



This spring we have the St Patrick's Day dinner at your Ballard Eagleson Post. We will be having corned beef with cabbage and vegetables boiled in the juice, soda bread and spinach salad followed by Irish bread pudding with brandy sauce.

Georgia Warrix is chair of this event and is coordinating the cooking, serving and raffle drawings. The Irish food will be cooked by genuine Irish (if only for a day) cooks but the "Irish Kiss" will be a drink and not an actual smooch.

We have some nice raffle items already including gift certificates from Cash and Carry, Better Meats, Patty's Eggnest and Bad Albert's with more on the way. Don't forget to get your tickets for this dinner to raise money for our Relief Fund. Tickets available from the Quartermaster or many post and auxiliary members .

Volunteers to set up on Wednesday and help serve and clean up on Thursday are still needed. If you can help out please contact Georgia at 253-241-4676 or [georgiasnap@gmail.com](mailto:georgiasnap@gmail.com).

Spring also brings our annual VFW Memorial Service for those who have passed through the winter of their lives and gone to Post Everlasting. On February 20th our post, along with the other six posts in District Two, held that service here in our hall. It was a time to recognize those who have passed and to reaffirm our vows to help our comrades and their families who continue their march through this life.

Our Commander Aaron Stoltz and Auxiliary President, Margaret Philips, rendering honors to our departed colleagues



## Commander's Letter



I have just attended the District 2 meeting, conducted on February 20th, and I am proud to announce that the District Commander made a point of the fact that Post 3063 achieved just over 100% membership retention for the year. National has recognized the same and mailed a 100% 2016 streamer which currently is draped on our post color. Thank you to all those members who recruited new comrades to our rolls.

In particular, I want to commend Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger for the many hours each week that he mans the post. It has paid dividends, as we have signed up a number of walk-ins who noticed our open door and occupied business office as they strolled by on NW Market Street. This post tends to function like a genuine Army Company, where the Commanding Officer is the nominal person in charge, but it is the First Sergeant (in the form of "Quartermaster") who really runs the place. Thanks to all of you who do so much to make my job easier.

In addition, I want to commend Charlie Anderson for editing an outstanding newsletter. I have been truly impressed with the quality of content and professional appearance of the product. It will only be better if more of you contribute articles of interest to you. It does not have to be veteran specific. With 143 members, it's likely that some other 3063 colleague shares whatever interest you care enough to write about.

At this point, if you have read this far, some of you may be wondering what happened to that snarky guy in previous Commander's Letters, fulminating against city officials with misguided projects and national figures Hell bent on propelling America in the direction of our defunct former cold war adversary. Not to worry, I'm still here, but my blood pressure mandates that I take a month off from bloviating. If what I sometimes say in this newsletter causes your blood pressure to rise, express your opinion in a newsletter submittal. It's called freedom of speech and our members have earned it more than most. We are not the old Presidio of the Supreme Soviet, where bemedaled geriatrics all raised their right hand in unison and muttered, "da." Feel free to tell me I'm full of it, but understand that I may retaliate by nominating you for an officer job you don't want when you are out the room and unable to object. Take care for now and contact Charlie Anderson with your newsletter contributions.

## Birthday Greetings (free dinner in your birthday month)

Fisher, John M  
Griffith, William R  
Lothrop, Carl W  
Mall, Orville L.  
Mattock, W R

Mattson, William J  
Raymond, James J  
Simpson, John A  
Starkman, Jesse E  
Tauscher, Jason W

**In Memoriam: Paul V. Miller, U.S. Navy**



## Post 3063 Elections

By Harold Rodenberger

Our March meeting marks the beginning of our annual election cycle with first nominations for officers. This is followed by second nominations and election during the April meeting, Installation during the May meeting and then the new officers take their positions the first of July after the State Commander is installed in June.

Our VFW Bylaws set out certain positions as elected and others as appointed.

Our elected officer positions are: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Chaplain, Quartermaster, Three-year Trustee and three-year member of the House Committee.

The Quartermaster, Trustees and House Committee deal with and oversee the financial affairs of the post. The Chaplain offers prayers during our meetings, sends sympathy cards and coordinates visits to hospitals and rest homes. Our Junior Vice Commander conducts meetings when the Commander and Senior Vice Commander are absent and serves as Chair of the Youth Activities Committee. Senior Vice Commander conducts meetings when the Commander is absent and serves as Chair of the Membership Committee. The Commander conducts business meetings, appoints all the other officers and sits on all committees.

Appointed positions are: Post Adjutant, Service Officer, Officer of the Day, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Assistant Quartermaster, Newsletter Editor, Facebook Manger, Webmaster, Historian, Parliamentarian, Guard and members of the Membership, Steering, Youth Activities, Poppy, Community Activities and Honor Guard Committees.

The appointed positions are self-explanatory except the first five. The Adjutant is a military title for someone who handles the paperwork of the post, Service Officer helps members and their families apply for benefits, Officer of the Day assists the Commander conduct meetings, Judge Advocate gives legal advice to the Commander and the Surgeon assists the Chaplain in his rounds and visitations.

Volunteering for one of these positions is a great way to help your post and your fellow members. Post members may serve in one elected position and one or more appointed positions. There are some restrictions on serving in multiple positions dealing with post financial matters.

If you are interested in serving as one or more of these officers come to the meeting on March 3rd. The elected positions will be open for first nominations or you can let the post officers know you are interested in one of the appointed positions.

## Parliamentary Procedure; or Movin' and Groovin'

By Clark Silliman

[Editor: Clark was appointed official Post 3063 Parliamentarian at the February 2016 business meeting. This month he offers some helpful hints on how to amend a motion.]

Once a motion has been duly made and seconded, it is subject to **AMENDMENT**.

The purpose of amending a motion is to modify or change the original motion **without destroying the sense of it**. For example, if the motion on the floor is to hold a picnic, it could be amended to add a date or a place for the picnic, but it could not be amended to change the event from a picnic to a disco dance.

Amendments, like motions, require seconding. After any discussion or debate, the amendment is first voted upon, followed by voting on the motion itself. If, however, the nature of the amendment is such that passing or defeating the amendment has the effect of passing or defeating the original motion itself, it is not necessary to have a vote on the motion.

Referring to the previous example of the motion to hold a picnic, if the vote on the amendment to add the place and time for the picnic passes, then by implication, the original motion to have the picnic also passes, without the need for a separate vote.



## **Women Veterans Summit**

Barbara Logan, Management Analyst/Executive Assistant, WA State Department of Veterans Affairs, advises women veterans to save Saturday, September 17, 2016 for the annual summit at the Suquamish Clearwater Resort and Casino.

Each year WDVA holds a Women Veterans Summit bringing women veterans together from across the state to learn about their benefits, share stories, and network with other women veterans.

This Summit will provide comprehensive information regarding federal and state benefits and managing the challenges women veterans of all ages and services face today. Registration is free for all veterans and current members of the armed forces, but donations and sponsorships will be gladly accepted.

Registration is not currently open, but please check their website in the near future for more details on the event and details on how to register. [www.dva.wa.gov/women/women-veterans-summit](http://www.dva.wa.gov/women/women-veterans-summit)

## **VFW Post 3063 Color Guard Seeking Volunteers**

Many years ago VFW Post 3063 had a Color Guard. For a variety of reasons interest waned and the Color Guard was dissolved. For some time now the post has been receiving requests for a Color Guard to participate in various events, but unfortunately those requests had to be declined.

At a recent business meeting the decision was made to reinstitute the post Color Guard. A nucleus committee was formed and the committee members had their first meeting on February 18th. The committee is next scheduled to meet at the post after the next business meeting on March 3rd.

Volunteering and being assigned to our post's Color Guard is an honor, because the Color Guard will be presenting and carrying the symbols of our post and of our country.

The Color Guard will consist of four members, one carrying our post flag, another carrying our national colors, and a guard with a rifle on either side. Before we commit the Color Guard to participate in an event, because of personal commitments and unforeseen circumstances we need a minimum eight members.

If you are in any way interested in volunteering for and becoming a member of the VFW Post 3063 Color Guard, or if you would like some additional information, please contact the committee chairman, Bill Hoeller, at (206) 632-3173 [wwhoeller@w-link.net](mailto:wwhoeller@w-link.net), or contact the Post Quartermaster, Harold Rodenberger, at (206) 782-8618.



## How to Write a Newsletter Article

By Charles Anderson



**It has been said everyone has a story to tell. VFW members, by the simple fact of their qualification for membership, almost certainly have many stories to tell.** Why not share at least one with your comrades in the Post Newsletter? Writing short anecdotal stories really is not that difficult. Certainly it is not as bad, as the great sportswriter Red Smith said when asked if turning out a daily column wasn't quite a chore, *"Why, no, you simply sit down at the typewriter, open your veins, and bleed."*

**Often, people are hesitant about putting down on paper something they experienced because it may bring back painful memories.** Or they may feel no one else would be interested in a particular event from their own military service. In the former case, your comrades in the post have either experienced similar happenings or by virtue of being a comrade-in-arms can empathize with your story. *Even if not writing about your military service, as our Commander pointed out in this month's letter, given the number of members we have it is quite likely others will be interested in whatever you care to write about.*

**Whatever the reason, it can be therapeutic to share memories, whether sad or humorous, with others.** Sometimes, not feeling motivated to write is because of a conscious or subconscious lack of belief in an individual's ability to string words together in a way that will come across to the reader as both coherent and absorbing. *This barrier to producing well-composed short articles is easy to conquer—it is just a matter of learning a few simple techniques.*

**Like any tactical military operation, writing an article starts with a plan based on logical principles.** The plan starts with determining how long the article should be. For the *Ballard Patriot* somewhere around 400 to 800 words, with a photo or two if possible, is a good target. For an article to get the reader's interest and hold it there needs to be a structure to the content. Think of the article as having three major divisions: Introduction, Body (details) and Summary (conclusion). In your mind, divide your article into these three sections, planning to devote approximately 15 to 20% to the introduction, for example, telling your readers who you are and what you are going to be writing about—think of it as setting the stage. Then 65 to 70% of the article should expand on the ideas you outlined in the introduction. This leaves 10 to 15% for a summary or conclusion of some sort; what the event meant to you; if it changed your feelings in some way, or some other wrap-up of the story that leaves the reader with a sense of conclusion. *There are many ways to get to that finished article—what follows is just one.*

**Start by jotting down on paper or keying into a computer an outline of the topic and sub topics you think will be part of your story.** I don't know if developing an outline is still taught in school, but for most of this audience I suspect at some time you were taught to arrange things in outline form, Roman Numerals, Capital Letters, small letters, small numbers, etc. *Using that technique in writing an article coupled with an approximate goal for length, at least when you are just starting out, is a good way to avoid ending with a series of disconnected or disjointed paragraphs and a shortened version of War and Peace.*

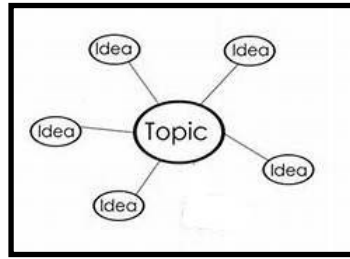
**A good story length for our newsletter is between 400 and 800 words. For this example, we will shoot for around 800 words more or less.** In your preliminary outline break that down by sections as shown below. These numbers are not set in stone; the final result almost certainly will vary but should maintain roughly the stated proportions. *The number and length of the individual sub-topics will govern the result.*

Think about how many sub-topics or sections (different aspects, events, people, locations, etc.) there will be in the article—let's say five for this example. Now create an outline like the one on the next page and replace the Roman numerals and letters in the example with a few words specific to your article and the approximate number of words in parentheses.



(Continued from page 5)

- I. Introduction (160)
  - II. Body (500)
    - A. (100)
    - B. (100)
    - C. (100)
    - D. (100)
    - E. (100)
  - III. Summary (120)
- Total article = 780 words.



If you can provide a picture or two, this count can be a bit less. Whatever you do, **do not** try to write to an exact word count in each section as this simplified example shows. Depending on the subject matter of each section, some natural differences in length will creep in. The point of starting with a rigorous outline is to prevent one part of your article taking over the full story—and finding out at the end you have a 1,600 word narrative that is too long for the newsletter.

This may sound like a lot of work before even starting to write. If you put this amount of preliminary planning into it, I can just about guarantee the final writing will go a lot easier. Without some advance thought, writing can become like charging into battle with no idea of terrain, enemy forces, rules of engagement or support.

With a coherent plan, you are now ready to take the next step. Following the outline, you can focus on writing in baby steps, one topic at a time—not trying to get everything out in one long stream of consciousness (thus likely getting lost as you write). Write one lead sentence under each item in the outline. The sentence should introduce the specific sub-topic. Next, go back and write a paragraph or two expanding on each sentence, keeping an eye on the projected word count. Finally, go back and review the paragraphs, one by one. Add clarifying sentences if still needed.

Look at the last sentence of each paragraph and the opening sentence of the next. Ask yourself if they relate, Does the opening sentence in each paragraph somehow follow from the last sentence above? If not, revise the preceding paragraph or change the opening of the next. This is called “Transition.” It encourages the reader to keep going. Have you ever noticed in good suspense novels how the author will end a chapter with a cliff hanger compelling the reader into the next chapter? Look at the **boldfaced** and *italicized* sentences in the first six paragraphs of this how-to article for examples of lead paragraphs and transitional sentences. Don't use boldface or italics in practice unless you really mean to emphasize something. Finally, read your article aloud in private. This is the best way to see whether everything makes sense and flows well. It also will catch some typos. If you have a willing reader, getting a second opinion before sending for publication never hurts.

At this point, do not worry overly about grammar. An editor can take care of that. If you are using software, it does not hurt to run Spell Check, although it is not an absolute guarantee of accuracy. The most important thing right now is just this: WRITE!

Send me what you have. Let me go over it with an editor's eye and make suggestions if needed. I do use what's called a “Style Guide” for the newsletter in order to have some consistency, so I might make some small changes for that reason and go over the result with you for your approval.

The important things to remember here are 1) planning the article with outlining, 2) writing interesting lead sentences, 3) expanding details as necessary, 4) keeping the writing flowing with transitions, and 5) summing up. A simple way to remember this is the maxim of good lecturers: *Tell them what you're going to tell them; Tell them; Tell them what you told them.* Along that line, a coming article will focus on readability using active instead of passive sentences, and avoiding trite phrases.

Now how about putting some fingers to the keyboard or dictating your story to a recorder or another person for the next newsletter?