

From the Commander

By Nestor Tamayao



At the post meetings held on the 1st Thursday

of the month, I find it satisfying to see the number of comrades that are present. We've been averaging about 20 members at each meeting. Now that may not seem like a lot and it pales from the days when the post was very active, but it is certainly better than 10 years ago when sometimes we didn't even have enough for a quorum.

While it is satisfying seeing comrades in attendance, they seem to be the same core of diligent members each meeting. It begs the question, "What has happened to those who used to attend?" I would like to think that work or school constraints or family responsibilities preclude their ability to make the meeting and that's understandable. But if you are a

comrade who no longer attends, I would like to know how we can get you interested again. Please come to a meeting and talk to me or send an email to commander@vfwseattle.org.

There are reasons to attend a meeting. If you are a continuous member (one who pays dues yearly), you could "win" a lifetime membership if you are present at a meeting and your name is drawn. Also, attending a meeting gives you usable information and allows you to know how the post is faring. We usually have a light meal before the 7 p.m. meeting, which gives you a chance to meet others and enjoy the camaraderie.

Speaking of meetings, I will not be conducting October's meeting as I will be on vacation. It will be in the capable hands of Senior Vice-Commander/Adjutant Pete Krawitz.

If you can't come to a meeting, I invite you to come

to the social on the 3rd Thursday of the month. For a nominal cost of \$3 for a member and \$5 per guest, you will enjoy a good catered meal. Menus change monthly. This is a good time to socialize with post and auxiliary members and guests. If you know of a potential new member, bring him or her to meet the officers and other comrades and to complete an application for membership.

To keep in mind as Veterans Day approaches, Auburn has its annual parade on Saturday, Nov. 5. The parade is recognized as one of the largest Veterans Day parades in the nation. Some members and I have marched in the parade and it was a rewarding experience. If you are interested in joining the parade this year, Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger will provide more information at the October post meeting.

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We're on the web and Facebook!

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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



For the past nine months we have had regular office hours three days per week. We have had some walk-in business but in our modern digital society most people do things online via our wonderful website, by email, or sometimes by using that old fashioned device, the telephone.

Based on this experience, starting in the middle of October we will reduce our schedule to Thursdays and Saturdays, one weekday and one weekend day per week, same times. I will be in the office most days and am available most anytime (unless traveling) so if you need to meet at the

office just let me know and we can arrange it.

Don't forget our document shredder day is this Sunday, Oct. 2, in our parking lot. Bring your old personal papers and watch them turned to confetti in the shredder truck.

The winter holidays are coming and with them the increased need for blood. As a service to our community we would like to schedule a blood drive at our post in December but we need at least 25 people to commit to giving blood before we can schedule a local drive. I promise to bake homemade cookies for the occasion so send me an email, call, or write to sign up and ask your neighbors to do the same.

Our Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Gail Engler is

available to help veterans and family members with questions about veteran's benefits. Gail is available at the Ballard Senior Center 1-2 p.m. the third Thursday of each month or by appointment at the post. You can reach her at 206-706-2703 and

seviceofficer@vfwseattle.org. If you have questions about VA benefits, please contact her.

Next month brings a most important day, Veterans Day. We will be honoring our veterans in many ways: visiting cemeteries, distributing Buddy Poppies, visiting patients at the Seattle VA Medical Center, and participating in special assemblies at our local schools. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer for any of these activities.

The Oct. 20 social will feature a guest speaker, John James, from The Assurance Group. He will speak at 6:30 p.m. about 2017 Medicare changes.



District 2 convenes meeting at Post 3063

By Harold Rodenberger

On Sept. 24 District 2 met at our post for its quarterly meeting and School of Instruction.

In the Department of Washington there are 108 posts divided into thirteen districts. Our post is part of District 2, which also includes Rainier (2289), Farwell-Roosevelt (2713), Vashon (2826), Blackburn-Aurora (3348), Burien (4314), and Seattle (6599) Posts.

Each district serves as an intermediate level of administration between the individual posts and the department headquarters. District officers guide the posts by answering questions, training and inspecting as necessary. The School of Instruction conducted at this meeting helped train post level officers.

Another important function of the district is to screen entries for VFW programs including those for

scouts, teachers, first responders and veteran of the year among others, and forward the winners to department level.

Our next district meeting will be on Nov. 19 at

Farewell-Roosevelt Post 2713 in West Seattle. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at 12:30 p.m. All post members are invited to attend.



From left, Officer of the Day Thom Fermstad, Commander Tiffany Bothell, Surgeon Linda Fairbank, and Quartermaster Richard Moore conduct District 2 business Sept. 24 at Post 3063.

Post pays a visit to hospitalized vets on Labor Day



Five members of Post 3063 and two community volunteers visited the Seattle VA Hospital on Labor Day to bring some holiday cheer to the patients. This visit they tried something new: instead of passing out drinks and snacks to the patients they passed out monetary chit books that could be used in the Veterans Canteen Service Store. Even the patients on restricted diets received something this time and all of them could choose whatever they wanted at the store. Pictured from left to right: Justin Mamallo, Dan Stokke, Sanu Chacko, Jessica Chacko, Gail Engler, and John Hoglund (Harold Rodenberger not pictured).



Officer Profile: Joe Tiffany, Post 3063 Jr. Vice

This is part of a series of profiles of the 2016-2017 Post 3063 officers.

Tell us about your new position and what you hope to accomplish during your term.

The junior vice commander assists the commander and senior vice commander in their duties. I help preserve order during meetings and assist post members with questions and support.

As far as our community, I'd like to impress upon them that we are from Ballard. Yes, we are a part of a larger, more national organization, but we are the face in our community for the VFW.

How long have you belonged to Post 3063 and did you previously serve in an officer position?

I believe I've been a member of Post 3063 for eight years or so. Yes I have been officer of the day and have filled in positions to further meetings. This is actually my second time in the junior vice commander position.

What is your military background?

I joined the Marine Corps in December 1988. My primary

MOS was 6113, CH-46E Flight Line Mechanic. First duty station was Search and Rescue Unit Iwakuni, Japan. I wanted to become a crew chief and my journey began in Iwakuni where I became an aerial observer. Desert Shield started a couple months before I rotated back stateside. I joined my new unit HMM-365 Blue Knights aboard the USS Gaum LPH 9 in the Persian Gulf. I did become a crew chief with over 1,000 flight hours. I was awarded combat aircrew wings with a star. I got out after four years at the rank of corporal due to family. In my time in I'd been to 18 countries, ten bodies of water, and 26 states.

"I'd really like to get our name out in to the community a little more."

What do you enjoy most about belonging to the VFW?

I belong to a couple other fraternal clubs. The thing I like most about the VFW is the camaraderie. We, unlike my other clubs, are unique. We've all been somewhere and have done something.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell Post 3063 members?

I'd really like to get our name out in to the community a little more. People ask me all the time: What is the VFW? Are you guys ever open? and the biggest of all, What do you guys do? I want to answer these and other questions our community may have. I'd also like to thank all those that came before us. Let's make them proud.

Correction: World War II Veteran Ceremony is Nov. 17

In the September issue the date for the World War II Veteran Ceremony was incorrectly listed as Oct. 13. The ceremony is scheduled during the Nov. 17 social where the post will host a special program honoring its WWII veteran members. There will be a slide show and memorabilia from the big war. They will have a free dinner for the honorees and the post will present longevity pins to all those WW II members who can attend. Pins for those who can't attend will be mailed out. Save the date and plan on attending so you can join us in honoring our members who are part of the Greatest Generation.



VA and Walgreens team up to provide flu vaccinations

Courtesy of Department of Veterans Affairs

The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Walgreens Pharmacies nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able walk into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally (and the Duane Reade pharmacies in the New York metropolitan area) to receive a vaccination at no cost. Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2017.

Veterans wishing to receive the no cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens to receive the vaccination.

In addition, after the Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine Walgreens will transmit that

information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient's electronic medical record.

VA is committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season, vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of flu. No matter where you live, visit your local VA clinic or Walgreens to get a free flu shot.

- To find your local VA, visit va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp.
- To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-WALGREENS (800-925-4733), or go to com/findastore.
- To learn more about the partnership, call 1-877-771-8537 or visit ehealth.va.gov/immunization.asp.
- To get more information on flu and flu vaccine, visit publichealth.va.gov/flu or www.cdc.gov/flu.

Voice of Democracy scholarship deadline is Nov. 1

Courtesy of VFW.org

Each year, nearly 40,000 high school students from across the country enter to win a share of \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the VFW's Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition.

The VFW established the Voice of Democracy program (VOD) in 1947 to provide students grades 9-12 the opportunity to express themselves in regards to democratic ideas and principles.

The national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. Other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$16,000, and the first-place winner from each (state) VFW Department wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

2016-17 THEME: MY RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICA

Students should record their reading of the draft to an audio CD or flash drive. The recording can be no shorter than three minutes and no longer than five minutes (plus or minus five seconds).

Entries begin at the post level. Once the student creates

their essay and completes burning the audio version to an audio CD/flash drive, they can submit their typed version, CD/flash drive and the Voice of Democracy entry form to their local participating VFW Post by the Nov. 1 deadline.



Students who

submit an essay to Post 3063 automatically receive a \$50 prize!

For more information regarding the scholarship application process, go to https://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY_VFW/VoiceofDemocracyEntryFormandBrochure.pdf.



Events Calendar

Oct. 2, 2016, 2 - 5 p.m. - Shredding event, Post 3063 parking lot (see post [website](#) for details)

Oct. 6, 2016, 7 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting: Chili dogs, potato salad, and chips

Oct. 20, 2016, 6:30 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner and Guest Speaker on 2017 Medicare changes: Soprano's pizza (\$3 for members, \$5 for guests)

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for business meetings and social dinners.

October Birthday Greetings! (Free dinner in your birthday month)

Stephen Acuna	Joshua Michaels
Erwin Boyer	Joseph Robinson
Roger Calvert Jr.	Allen Schwerer
Dan Cameron	Daniel Syverson
Roberto Cantu	Karen Testa
Genaro Garcia	Griff Tilmont
James Kershaw	Evan Turner
Michael Mahar	Richard Westfall
Roger Mebust	James Williams
William Metcalf	

Post catches up on flag retirements, more scheduled



Bill Hoeller (left) and Harold Rodenberger (right) conducted a flag retirement ceremony Sept. 18. They honored twenty-seven unserviceable American Flags by properly disposing of them in their portable incineration device. They are now caught up so if you or your neighbors have an unserviceable flag, bring it by the office during regular office hours and they will add it to the collection for the next retirement ceremony.