



Ballard Eagleson Patriot
Post 3063, Ballard, WA
September–October 2015

Upcoming Events

September 3, 7:00 PM Business Meeting
September 17, 5:30 PM Social Evening/Dinner
October 1, 7:00 PM Business Meeting
October 15, 5:30 PM Social Evening/Dinner
November 5, 7:00 PM Business Meeting
November 19, 5:30 PM Social Evening/Dinner
December 3, 7:00 PM Business Meeting
December 17, 5:30 PM Social Evening/Dinner
(Christmas Party)

Quartermaster's Update



Summer is winding down. Soon the (grand)kids will be back in school and most vacations will be over until next summer. Energetic life goes on at your local VFW Post. We have Veterans Day visitations and speaking engagements scheduled with more coming throughout the winter months.

We have good numbers of attendees at our meetings and socials. If you haven't been to either for a while you will be pleasantly surprised by the size of the groups. Come on out and get involved with other veterans and their families.

Our previous chaplain, Jon Guncay, now works a swing shift and can't attend meetings for a while. We miss Jon but in accordance with the by-laws we needed to elect a replacement so at our last business meeting we elected Bill Griffith. Bill has sometimes served as temporary chaplain and I'm sure he will do a great job for our post. Bill gained his VFW eligibility through service in Korea.

Our caterer, Marco, has moved on to a new job in Leavenworth so has given notice that our September social will be his last. We have two prospects to fill the job of caterer. It will be difficult to replace Marco who has done a great job. Whoever takes over the job will have big shoes to fill but I'm sure the tradition of great social night dinners will continue.

[Harold Rodenberger]

Commander's Letter



As I write this, the post and our neighbors are facing a considerable challenge in the form of the city's moronic plan to place a transient camp on the adjacent lot. By the time this goes to print, we may have an answer regarding if this misguided proposal was rolled back or if the city insisted, over nearly unanimous neighborhood objection, on going forward because city officials refuse to admit to a mistake.

I have made my phone calls, written emails, attended meetings and conducted radio (Dori Monson show) and television interviews (Channel 13 Fox). Soon, on August 15th, I will escape this insanity by taking a two-week trip to Japan with my daughter. When I booked the trip, I did not know that this issue would be looming over our heads.

I call upon my fellow VFW comrades to take up this fight and keep the pressure on. Make your calls, send your emails, try to attend whatever public forums are scheduled for the rest of the month and let your voice be heard, whether by TV, radio or social media. The VFW fought for the principle that government cannot impose something on us without the consent of the governed, yet that is what the City of Seattle is doing now.

We did not ask for this fight, but now that the city has brought it to our doorstep, we cannot duck it. [Aaron Stoltz]

Chaplain's Corner

Howard Rutledge* tells about his plane being shot down over Vietnam. He parachuted into a little village, where he was attacked, stripped naked and imprisoned.

For the next seven years, he endured brutal treatment, sometimes shackled in excruciating positions and left for days in his own waste. Rats the size of cats crawled around his cell. Later, he wrote a book about his ordeal and gave a powerful testimony as to the importance of Scripture.

He goes on to say, "I would pray, hum hymns silently, quote Scripture and think about what that verse meant to me...the enemy knew that the best way to break a man's resistance was to crush his spirit in a lonely cell." The former POW states, "Scripture and hymns might be boring to some, but it was the way we conquered our enemy and overcame the power of death around us." [Bill Griffith]

**In the Presence of Mine Enemies; 1965-1973; A Prisoner of War*



VFW National Convention

By Harold Rodenberger

Our national convention is the governing body of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Every year we meet to decide on changes to our By-Laws and Ritual, set policy and elect leaders for the ensuing year. We also hear from various dignitaries perhaps including the local mayor and governor, senators and representatives, the head of the Veterans Administration and the President or his designated representative.

This year the convention was convened in Pittsburgh and we heard from the Mayor of Pittsburgh, Bill Peduto; Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Wolf; Director of the VA, Robert McDonald and President Obama.

One of the big items for discussion this year was the proposal to change our Ladies Auxiliary to a gender-neutral organization that would accept both women and men.

This issue has come on the floor for several conventions and has been driven by the increasing number of women who serve in our Armed Forces and who have spouses, brothers, children or other relatives who would become eligible to join the auxiliary. For that matter, male relatives of male VFW members, such as my sons, also would be eligible to join the auxiliary.

Just as in 1978 when we finally voted to admit female veterans despite dire warnings that it would result in the ruination of our order, we have now achieved a milestone in the modern world by admitting males to the auxiliary despite those same warnings.

All things take time and eventually an organization has to change to survive. We did and we will.

Our Post on the Go

Recently members of our post have been on the go. First was a welcome home to members of our adopted unit, HHC 81st ABCT. Elizabeth Servey, our Community Activities Chair, and twin boys passed out drinks and snacks to the troops returning from summer training.

On the 15th of August Elizabeth Servey, again helped by her twins, and Gail Engler staffed an information table for a pre-deployment briefing day for Coast Guard Unit PSU 313. They passed out brochures and answered questions about the many ways the VFW can help veterans.

On August 22nd Charles and Susan Anderson visited a comrade at an assisted living facility. He enjoys visitors from the post. If you have time check with [Harold](#) or [Charles](#) for details and pay him a visit.

2015-2016 Post Officers

Commander—Aaron Schultz
Senior Vice-Commander—Nestor Tamayao
Junior Vice Commander—Robert Richardson
Quartermaster—Harold Rodenberger
Adjutant—Pete Krawitz
Chaplain—Bill Griffith
Judge Advocate—John Hoglund
Surgeon—Justin Mamallo
Service Officer—John Hoglund
1-year Trustee—Gail Engler
2-year Trustee—Russ Seelig
3-year Trustee—James Williams

Birthday Greetings

(Free dinner in your birthday month.)

Bailey, Roland I.	Michaels, Joshua A.
Calvert Jr., Roger W.	Miller, Paul V.
Cameron, Dan L.	Olauson, Gordon D.
Cantu, Roberto	Rodenberger, Harold G.
Galloway, Robert M.	Swails, Nathan J.
Garcia, David C.	Syverson, Daniel G.
Garcia, Genaro.	Torgeson, E. R.
Hoeller, William W.	Usitalo, Bert O.
Legaz, Joseph M.	Wald, Jerome A.
Mahar, Michael T.	Westfall, Richard R.
Metcalf, William A.	Wikstrom, David I.

Congratulations to Bob and Sarah Kettle on the recent arrival of daughter Evelyn Anne.

Congratulations to Jon and Liz Guncay on their new addition, Daniel Henderson.



Mayor's Meeting On Homeless

By Charles Anderson



[Photo by Doug Maines, Post 3063]

On August 12, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, the Mayor's office held a meeting for Ballard residents and other interested parties concerned with the abrupt announcement of the establishment of a tent city for homeless individuals at 2826 NW Market St. The doors of the Leif Erikson Hall opened at 6:00 PM. A standing-room only crowd (with more people waiting outside the door and others turned away) attended. Shortly after the doors opened, to establish the tone of the meeting, City staff started a Microsoft PowerPoint slide show, which continued on a loop through the full course of the meeting. The show consisted of very professional portrait type photos with first name captions of what presumably were very presentable homeless individuals.

The Deputy Mayor opened the meeting and made some brief remarks, followed by various City staffers. At 7:00 pm, comments from the audience began with the Deputy Mayor calling out names from signup sheets. As people entered, they were offered alternative sign up sheets labeled "against," "neutral" or "for."

Comments from the public were limited to two minutes. There was no evidence that a strict rotation from one list to another was used. Sometimes three speakers in a row offered support for the camp and at other times the same thing happened with those against the location. The very last speakers, at approximately six minutes before the meeting ended (presumably by coincidence) were three strong supporters of tent cities. Two clergy from different churches extolled the virtues and civil behavior of encampment residents. A final Ballard resident fervently wished the homeless camp could be located in a small park across the street from his house because they made such good neighbors.

From applause and boos, it seemed to this observer the majority of the audience opposed the location and resented the lack of communication and involvement with the city process. Speakers from the side in favor focused their comments on the importance of dealing with the homeless and the benefits of tent cities, largely ignoring the issue of the camp's location.

Our VFW Parking Lot

By Harold Rodenberger

Many of you know about the proposed homeless encampment that is scheduled to go in on the lot next to our parking lot. As of this writing we still aren't sure of the outcome but we believe it is prudent to expect the camp to go in despite our (and our neighbors') well reasoned arguments to the contrary.

Even if the camp isn't placed on the Seattle City Light lot next to our parking lot we expect increasing problems with unauthorized persons parking in our lot. This end of Ballard is becoming more and more densely settled with even more construction scheduled.

In the past we have posted signs and towed the occasional violator but it is getting more difficult to manage parking in our lot. To help solve this problem we have made the difficult decision to place chains across the front of the lot. In addition we are asking that our members and other authorized users of our parking lot pick up a VFW card or decal from the office and display that card on the dash or place the decal on a window of your vehicle. This will help us identify authorized vehicles and initiate towing requests for the others.

The center chain will have two locks. One will be for Waste Management to open when they come in for our garbage, recycle and compost. The other will be a combination lock that can be opened by our members and other authorized users of the lot. When you stop by the office to pick up your VFW sign be sure to ask for the lock combination if you want to park in the lot at times other than regular meetings.

On meeting days, the parking lot will be open but if you open the chain at other times be sure to close it behind you. The combination must be moved before the lock will stay closed. I know this is an inconvenience but it has become necessary.

What Makes a Newsletter Readable?

At the August 6 Post business meeting, some compliments were paid to the newsletter editor. The editor thanks everyone for their kind words but wants to make it clear this newsletter is a collaborative effort. It only works because of the articles members submit and the aid of the unseen and hitherto unnamed proof-readers, Harold Rodenberger, Bill Hoeller and the editor's wife, Susan. The time these readers spend in catching the inevitable typos the editor's fingers sometimes produce makes all the difference in the final product. The editor wishes to express his heartfelt appreciation for their good work.



Proposed Homeless Encampment



“**SUBJECT:** City identifies public lands for permitted encampment sites

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 6/29/2015 4:00:00 PM

SEATTLE - Today Mayor Ed Murray released a [map](#) of City-owned properties most suitable for new permitted encampments to serve at least 200 individuals experiencing homelessness.”

One of the proposed sites is 2826 NW Market Street (next to our parking lot) for approximately 52 residents.

Then the Ballard Chamber of Commerce and an ad hoc group called Speak Up Ballard got involved..

“The 90-day site review and selection process for this particular location was conducted secretly, with absolutely no advance notice or outreach to our community's residents, businesses and property owners.” [Email: Thursday, July 9, 2015 7:44 PM, Ballard Chamber of Commerce, mike@ballardchamber.com]

“The Seattle City Council is refusing to consider citizen, neighbor and small-business owners concerns about the locations of new, city-sponsored homeless encampments in Ballard and other neighborhoods. This follows a cloaked site selection process that excluded public comment and provided no neighborhood notification.” [Speak Up Ballard Petition, 1520 signers as of 8/23/2015]

Then the City started work



Once this was a mountain ash . . . and now it's gone.



West View of Site



East View of Site



There was a public meeting August 3 and another one August 12 (see story page 3).

Bulldozers, jackhammers and dump trucks did their work.

Seattle City Light cut an electric main on the site, taking out 2,000 customers.



Two vets watching pesticide control efforts



Call Before You Dig!

Power Main



Previous Tent City in Seattle

[To be continued]