

From the Commander

By Nestor Tamayao



I hope you all had a fine Christmas

and enjoyed the festivities as well as a New Year's celebration. It's always the best time of the year when we can gather with family and friends and strengthen family ties and friendships.

The New Year also brings many activities and events to the post. This month several members and I will attend the Mid-Winter State Convention in Vancouver, Wash. In March, nominations for

officer positions will open with elections held in April. In May, the District 2 Convention and Installation of Officers will be held at our post. In June, the State Convention will convene in Olympia and the National Convention in New Orleans, La. will be in July. I am confident many post members can be involved with these upcoming events.

As usual, membership is a primary focus each year. We are currently at, I believe, 91 percent and need about seven new members to attain the goal of 100 percent. If you know of an eligible veteran, have him or her contact the post for more infor-

mation. Encourage attendance at the Post Social. That is a good opportunity for the potential new member to meet the officers, post and auxiliary members and be made aware of meetings and post activities.

I thank all of those who are involved in the several committees the post has. Participation from more members will make the committees even more effective. Please consider helping with committees and post activities whenever possible. With your help, it will ensure that Ballard Eagleson Post 3063 remains a vibrant and active one.

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Post raises \$1.2K for VFW National Home for Children during business meeting

During December's Business Meeting, the regular call was made for VFW National Home for Children donations, but with a twist. An anonymous donor would match whatever amount members contributed to the pot. The pot made the rounds and Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger tallied the donations.

Knowing that their contributions would be matched, members continued to chip more in while Harold counted and the final tally came to \$620, for a grand total \$1,240 donation! The post thanks the members and the anonymous donor for their generosity!



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This newsletter is published monthly and submissions must be received by the editor five days before the last day of a month for inclusion in the next month's issue. We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity, and syntax. Be aware that newsletter images and/or text appearing on the website may be shared by readers.

Commander: Nestor Tamayao

Sr Vice Commander: Pete Krawitz

Jr Vice Commander: Joe Tiffany

Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger

Adjutant: Pete Krawitz

Judge Advocate: John Hoglund

Chaplain: Bill Griffith

Surgeon: Justin Mamallo

Officer of the Day: Mike Mahar

3-Year Trustee: Aaron Stoltz

2-Year Trustee: James Williams

1-Year Trustee: Russ Seelig

Service Officer: Gail Engler

Guard: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Alyson Teeter

Contact Us:

Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063

2812 NW Market St.

Seattle, WA 98107

206-782-8618

editor@vfwseattle.org

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<http://www.vfwseattle.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost3063>

[vfwpost3063](http://www.vfwseattle.org)

Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



Another year has come and gone. They seem to roll by

faster as I age but the old folks told me to expect that, so I don't worry.

Of course, with faster years come faster months, weeks and days. I don't think too much about the faster years and months but the faster weeks and especially days sometimes leave me befuddled.

A couple days ago, I got up at 5:30 a.m. thinking I had the whole day ahead of me so I could get a lot accomplished. In addition to my normal routine I wanted to clean out the shop and straighten up some things in the basement and make a trip to Goodwill to donate some excess clothes. That day seemed like it might be a good day to get those things done.

After I went downstairs and greeted my little dog, I brought in the paper, made coffee, did a few exercises, ate breakfast and the next thing I knew it was 10 a.m. Had an 11 a.m. medical appointment at Northgate

so hurried through a shower, got dressed and just made it to my appointment on time.

On the way back from Northgate stopped at the office to check on a couple things. Next time I looked at the clock it was 5 p.m. and time to head home for supper. Not long after I finished eating, my little dog reminded me it was walk time, so I bundled up against the cold, put on my reflective vest and off we headed to check out the evening in our neighborhood.

Back from our walk, I decided to make a quick batch of cookies and next thing I knew it was past time for bed. No time spent cleaning the shop or the basement and no trip to Goodwill. Where had the day gone?

Time spent at the VFW is a lot the same. So many routine tasks need to be done that our plans to grow the post, help our members and serve our community sometimes drop into a lower priority.

Fortunately, at the post there are active officers and volunteers to help accomplish the special things

that need to be done.

Those volunteers and officers visit the VA Hospital and other nursing homes and retirement centers to visit with patients and veterans; perform Color Guard functions; manage our newsletter, Facebook page and website; help with meals on meeting nights, socials and special dinners; contact potential members and those whose memberships have lapsed; retire old flags; maintain our library and even change burned out lights.

What would we do without volunteers willing to give up some precious time and energy to help others? It would be a sad world indeed.

In this new year, if you would like to join our volunteers in these many activities, please come to meetings, call the office, drop by during business hours or call me personally (206-972-2135) and we will add your name to the list of good people who are helping make our world a better place.

Now if I could just find time to clean out my shop...



Members and guests celebrate the holidays at Post 3063

Post 3063 hosted its annual holiday party during the December social on Dec. 15, 2016.

It was a jovial event for young and old. More than a hundred members, loved ones, and guests attended and dined on free Prime Rib cooked by Marco.

Ann Leake gave gifts to the children as Santa: she has played Santa for the past several years. Annette Russell played holiday music on her keyboard and the Top of the Hill barbershop quartet sang to the crowd. The Top of the Hill quartet hails from the Seattle Seachordsmen, a local barbershop chorus.

Harold Rodenberger organized the event. Margaret Philips set-up, decorated, and organized the gift giving.



Above: Guests fill their plates with Marco's Prime Rib while the Top of the Hill barbershop quartet entertains the crowd. Approximately 110 people attended the event.

Lower left: Ann Leake plays Santa, The Top of the Hill quartet sings, and Annette Russell plays holiday music on her keyboard.

Lower right: Bob Kettle's daughter meets Santa for the first time.





Officer Profile: John Hoglund, Post 3063 Judge Advocate

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.

My 2017 goals for Post 3063 involvement are to bring balance and continuous thoughtful support to the work of the house committee and to our VA Hospital visits throughout the year on holidays.

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

I have served several years as post adjutant and four to five years on the Post 3063 House Committee, managing post property, assets and monitoring post expenditures and by-laws. I have also served as post service officer previously. I have been an active member of the post for six to seven years.

"My 2017 goals for Post 3063 involvement are to bring balance and continuous thoughtful support to the work of the house committee and to our VA Hospital visits throughout the year on holidays."

What is your military background?

My background serves me well having been a practicing attorney for 33 years in Olympia and a business person at a managerial development and training company. I served in the U.S. Army in Viet Nam as an Intelligence Specialist and Interrogator of POWs.

What do you enjoy most about belonging to the VFW?

I enjoy the community of vets at Post 3063 and like the comradeship of connecting with the vets at the VA Hospital on an on-going basis. I also enjoy the work of supporting our quartermaster and guiding the giving and fund raising aspects of post activities.

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

I would like to encourage all members of the post to be as active as possible in one of our post events and service opportunities.

Post participates in Wreaths Across America ceremony

The Post 3063 Honor Guard, consisting of Joe Fitzgerald, Bill Hoeller and Harold Rodenberger, participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony near the flagpole at Lakeview Cemetery in Seattle on Dec. 17, 2016. After the wreaths were placed honoring the five services, POW/MIA and Merchant Marines, the post Honor Guard fired three volleys honoring the veterans.

Bill Griffith was in charge of the ceremony at Lakeview, as he has been for the past four years.



The Honor Guard fires volleys during the Wreaths Across America ceremony.



Post Voice of Democracy Essay Winner: Jessica Chacko

The VFW sponsors the annual Voice of Democracy essay contest for high schoolers. Jessica Chacko, a ninth-grader, entered at the post and won first place, which includes a \$100 prize. She also placed third place at the district level and will receive a \$100 prize. Her essay is copied below. Congratulations, Jessica!

My Responsibility to America

Ask yourself, "What is your responsibility to America?" All citizens have responsibilities as members of a family, as students, and as a part of their community.

Most families have a set of regulations that are usually set by the parents in the family so that their children can be safe and each member of the family must follow. Some of these rules might include what social activities the children may participate in, chores that they must complete, curfews, and bedtimes. These rules aren't always the same, however; they change as situations change; as the children grow older and are entrusted with more responsibility. Everyone in the family needs to cooperate with these set rules in order for the family to be able to function smoothly and live together in peace and harmony. To be a responsible family member, you simply need to know your boundaries, follow the rules and help each other when you can. An example of this would be doing an extra chore without being told to do so, or trying to get along with your siblings. Other responsibilities of a family member are being truthful, sincere, and courteous towards the other members of your family and to others in general. My family, for example, has many rules that I, as a member of this family, must follow. When I was younger, I had many more set rules that I was required to follow, and as I grew older and school and sports took up more time, my parents entrusted me with more responsibilities and gave me more freedom I try to be a responsible family member, but I am not perfect, and my family recognizes this, but I attempt to be the best that I can be while also managing my academic and social life.

As well as having a responsibility to your family, we all have responsibilities as students. All students are to be treated with dignity and respect, but students also have to follow rules. These rules and regulations are set in place for the safety and health of students as well as staff members and make for a functional and supportive environment. As students we need to come to school with our best foot forward and a commitment to accomplish the tasks we face ahead. We must keep an open mind to other people's ideas and accept that we are all unique. We need to learn the art of compromise and recognize that the

saying, "Sharing is caring," is extremely important. We also need to do our part in keeping the classroom environment orderly. At my high school, there are many rules in place that we, as the student body are required to follow. Some of these rules include the strict dress code that ensures that students are dressed professionally and modestly and the no-gum rule that applies to everyone, including faculty, so that it helps keep the facility clean. There are consequences for not following the set rules, such as detention, suspension, and expulsion. As a student, I am expected to come to school each and every day prepared with all of my supplies and an attitude for learning. I try to keep an open mind at all times because I know that some of my peers have really good ideas, and I need to work together with them in order to create a positive learning environment for all of us.

As citizens of the United States of America, we all need to follow societal rules and laws because they are necessary for protecting the safety and well-being of other individuals, as well as defending our freedom. Adults play their part in the society by paying taxes and voting. As today's youth, we can also help our community by volunteering to assist community events and organizations and by helping others in need. On an even smaller scale, we can help to pick up garbage in a local park, visit a nursing home, or even just offer to walk our neighbor's dog. Being active members of society is one of the responsibilities of every able person and getting involved in our community makes us feel better about ourselves. As a ninth grade student who wants the best for her community, I try to do whatever I can in order to make my community a better place for everyone in it. As a volunteer I have helped provide company for patients at the Veterans Affairs Hospital during the holidays, and I have also volunteered with my school and other non-profit organizations in my area. As a United States Naval Sea Cadet, I have developed a strong love and respect for America's veterans and our military. I love talking to the veterans at the VA Hospital and hearing their stories about how they have suffered and how they continue to struggle. American veterans are the epitome of perfect citizenship, and I aspire to be like them in my perseverance and patriotism.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." So when asked what my responsibility to America is, my answer is simple. My responsibility to America is to work with others to improve the greatest country on Earth.



**Veterans Day Letter from St. Alphonsus
Parish School (3rd Grade), Ballard**

Thank you, Hero!

Dear Veteran,
thank you for keeping all of us
safe. Navy, Air force, Army or Coast
Gaurd we would not be able
too do the things we do without
you! I understand that you
risk your life for us so
we wish you safety at
war and safety
for your family.



from: Abigail





Veterans Day Letter from Hamilton Middle School (9th Grade), Wallingford

Dear Hero,

I am 13 years old. I have never experienced war. I am so lucky to live in such an amazing and beautiful country. My community is so accepting of who I want to be and what I want to do. I am so lucky. I am allowed to feel and think what I want. I am allowed to live without fear that my freedom will be taken from me.

I don't know your name, or even how you served our country. But it takes so much bravery and dedication to help our country when it needs help. It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done, but I owe you a huge debt of gratitude. Words can't even describe how much I want to thank you for giving me, and kids like me the opportunity to say what we feel confidently. You have worked hard to defend our country and our rights, and the gratitude you deserve is immense.

Thank you.
Sydney



Upcoming Events

Jan. 5, 2017, 7 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting: Menu TBD

Jan. 19, 2017, 6:30 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner: Menu TBD (\$3 for members, \$5 for guests)

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

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

Ray Brack
Robert Brodfuehrer
Harland Goodrich
Pete Krawitz
Michael Lawrence
Steven Moody
James Watkins

Care Packages: Would you like to donate?

Post 3063 is collecting care package items for its three deployed members. So far the post has homemade jerky, Starbucks Via, ground coffee, and candy bars. If you would like to contribute, please provide items to Harold Rodenberger by **Jan. 9, 2017**.

