

From the Commander

By Nestor Tamayao



At the State mid-winter conven-

tion in Vancouver, Wash. last month, a speaker talked about a post that is trying to recruit younger members. The speaker said that potential young members didn't think much of the VFW and thought of it as a place where old men sat around and drank. Not the image we want in order to get them to join.

The VFW membership is dwindling and a majority of the members are older. We must find ways to encourage others to join the VFW, particularly the younger veterans of recent campaigns. We have to put the word out that we have monthly meetings, various committees to be involved in and activities and events that benefit various charities, VFW and Auxiliary members, and the com-

munity.

Although our post has a membership committee, it is very helpful if each of us could be a "part" of that committee by talking to potential new members, explaining the mission and activities of the VFW and remove that image that has been ingrained for far too long.

With the advent of social media comes a better way of reaching out for new members and particularly younger veterans.

This is their method of choice in receiving information and engaging in social and business levels.

No longer can we rely on the methods we used before to recruit, even though they were state-of-the-art at one time.

Having new members into our post certainly would be a benefit and would bring in more members to involve themselves in the many aspects of VFW membership. Involvement by current members is paramount as well.

I encourage you to get the word out about the VFW whenever possible. It is vital for the prolongation of one of the largest veterans organizations in the United States.

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Caring for our members



Gail Engler (pictured) and Harold Rodenberger assembled care packages Jan. 14 for the post's three deployed members. The packages included calling cards, ground coffee and chocolate bars, Starbucks Via, homemade beef jerky, homemade oatmeal raisin walnut cookies and peanut butter cookies.



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 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
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We're on the web and Facebook!

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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



January was a busy month at our post.

Some of our traveling members collected toiletries from hotels along the way and brought them by so we could give them to the homeless folks in the camp next door. Brian, the security coordinator, said they really appreciate those small size toiletries since their shower facility is several blocks away and it's awkward to carry large bottles of shampoo and such up the street. The small containers work so much better.

If you are a collector of hotel-size toiletries and have some to spare, bring them by and we will accumulate and donate them to our neighbors.

I gave blood again in January. [As I detailed in an article a couple months ago](#), it is almost pleasant to give blood the modern way. There is no question it saves lives, so if you can give blood, please do. If you give blood, please let us know so we can add

your donation to the list of good things our post does, for our Community Service Report.

Another item of community service that is reported up our chain of command is the donations in kind many of us make from time to time. When you donate clothes, groceries or household items to your favorite charity, please send us a compilation so we can add those values for community service credit.

In January, members of our post visited three local retirement homes and several older members in their homes. If you would like to join the effort to visit our members in these local homes, or any of our (especially older) members, please let me know.

This month brings the debut of Kay Seelig as the new cook for our social dinners on the third Thursday of each month. Please check out the short article elsewhere in this newsletter, check the menu each month and plan to attend the socials every month.

February will also be a busy month at our post.

Nominations for many of our VFW National awards are due. There are awards for: Teacher of the year, firefighter, police officer, EMT technician of the year; veteran of the year, Scout of the year and others. If you know someone who is head and shoulders above others in their specialty, please bring it to our attention so we can put them in for proper recognition.

Believe it or not, our meeting next month brings first nominations for officers for the upcoming VFW year. If you are interested in running for elected office, now is the time to let that secret out of the bag. Talk to a fellow member about nominating you and spread the word about your candidacy. We also have vacancies in some appointed offices and committees. Again, don't keep it a secret if you are interested in serving your post in this way.



Changing times requires emphasis on recruiting, membership

By Harold Rodenberger

Citizens of this great country over the years have formed many organizations. There are civic, fraternal, sporting, patriotic, religious, scholastic and work related groups. In fact, there are organizations designed to appeal to almost every interest.

Organizations bring likeminded people together just for fun, as in the case of our sports teams' fan clubs; for sharing ideas, as in the case of cooking, quilting and book clubs; and for help achieving a better life, as in the case of religious, scholastic, business and union organizations. Some people belong to many organizations and some people belong only to one or two.

People use organizations to help them achieve a better life and even, in some cases, to survive. In turn, no matter how large the organization or how good its mission, it must have members to survive. Though once a great organization, The Association of Switchboard Operators is just a memory alongside the Ballard Local of the West Coast Shingle Weavers' Union.

The VFW was founded to provide benefits to our Armed Forces veterans who served in combat areas. Foremost among these was camaraderie with fellow veterans, assistance for comrades in distress and furthering patriotic ideals. In addition, strength in numbers allows our voice to carry more weight with politicians from the local to national level.

In addition to helping others, the VFW helps our members. Our VFW Service Officers help qualified veterans file for medical care and disability benefits. We give financial grants, scholarships, and there are other programs to help our members and their families. To check out additional benefits go to: <http://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/copy-of-member-benefits>.

When I first joined the VFW, there was emphasis on camaraderie with most posts having a canteen and kitchen with lower priced food and beverages giving their members a place to gather with fellow veterans. As time

passed, attitudes changed and our post closed its clubroom as have many posts across the nation.

Today's VFW members want to be more involved in helping fellow vets and the community. Our post typifies this changing attitude by doing many activities that support our community and especially our fellow veterans.

The key to attaining these goals is membership. Without a growing, or at least stable membership, our voice on Capitol Hill, our ability to aid our comrades in distress and resources to help our community all diminish.

Most of our members know of the benefits of belonging to the VFW but many qualified veterans don't know about us or may have the outdated idea that we are a bunch of old fogies, hanging out in the bar telling war stories. To get the word out about the new VFW and to encourage our members sign up new recruits, we have various incentive programs.

On our post level, when we sign up new members we know that we are helping vitalize and strengthen our own post. The more members we have the more dynamic we are, the more dynamic we are the more we can accomplish for our members, other veterans and our community.

At department level, if you sign up five new or reinstated members this year, you will receive a Silver certificate and a ticket to enter the "Fishing for Membership" raffle. Sign up ten and, in addition to another raffle ticket, you will get a Gold certificate and a Recruiter's Baseball cap. Every additional five members earns another raffle ticket.

The raffle drawing will be held at our state convention and the twenty winners will also receive a fishing license, lunch and bait for a trip departing from Westport. The biggest fish will also win a prize.

Members who earn a Silver certificate also will be entered in four \$50.00 cash drawings at our state convention.



You receive a shamrock pin for signing up five members.



Officer Profile: Bill Griffith, Post 3063 Chaplain

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

Last year our chaplain was unable to complete his responsibilities and I was asked if I would be willing to fill in. This year I was asked if I would like to continue as chaplain and I said yes. A concern I have as chaplain is connecting with those in our post who are unable to attend our meetings. Several people in the post have joined me in reaching out to these non-attending members. Our World War II vets are of special concern to our committee. We would value any information that you might have concerning a compatriot who is sick or perhaps for other reasons is finding it difficult to attend our meetings. We would like to send them a card of encouragement and pay them a visit if possible.

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

I have been a member of the post for almost four

There's a new chef in town

Kay Seelig is the new chef for our third Thursday socials. You may remember Kay from the great tasting spaghetti she made for some of our fundraisers.

Kay brings a wealth of cooking experience to this new gig. She has cooked both as a hobby and as a professional and once cooked her way through Julia Child's famed 100 Master Recipes from "The Way To Cook" in a single year.

Over the coming months you will experience menus ranging from the merely wonderful to the near exotic. We will publicize her selections via our newsletter and website so you can check in advance to see what delicacy will be served next.

Kay wants to be as inclusive of special needs as possible. If you have a food allergy or other special dietary resection let us know at least a week in advance of the social and Kay will provide alternatives where possible.

years and this is my first officer position.

What is your military background?

I was enlisted in the Army starting off as an aircraft mechanic in Korea and then as a flight operations specialist at the Presidio in San Francisco. I was temporally drafted to do clerical work at Sixth Army Headquarters working for a Colonel Lee. Colonel Lee decided that I



looked like a fine upstanding soldier and thought that somehow I would do, so he entered me into the Sixth Army soldier of the quarter competition which I amazingly won. The picture above adorned the walls of the Sixth Army Headquarters for three months in 1966 as part of this recognition.

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 fundraising aspects of post activities.

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

Although the post does many worthwhile events like visiting the VA and helping veterans with claims for service connected disabilities, I find that just hanging out with the members of the post is the most enjoyable aspect of membership. They are a great group!

After a lifetime in aviation I'm now retired. I am currently a docent (tour guide) at the Museum of Flight in Seattle. I am there most Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and I would love to give any post member a personal tour.



DoD Extends Online Exchange Shopping to Veterans

Courtesy of Defense.gov

The Department of Defense announced a policy change that will extend limited online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans of the military.

The veterans online shopping benefit will be effective this Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

While shopping privileges exclude the purchase of uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products, it includes the Exchange Services' dynamic online retail environment known so well to service members and their families. This policy change follows careful analysis, coordination and strong public support.

"We are excited to provide these benefits to honorably discharged veterans to recognize their service and welcome them home to their military family," said Peter Levine, performing the duties for the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"In addition, this initiative represents a low-risk, low

-cost opportunity to help fund Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs in support of service members' and their families' quality of life. And it's just the right thing to do," Levine added.

The online benefit will also strengthen the exchanges' online businesses to better serve current patrons. Inclusion of honorably discharged veterans would conservatively double the exchanges' online presence, thereby improving the experience for all patrons through improved vendor terms, more competitive merchandise assortments, and improved efficiencies, according to DoD officials.

"As a nation, we are grateful for the contributions of our service members. Offering this lifetime online benefit is one small, tangible way the nation can say, 'Thank you' to those who served with honor," Levine said.



Membership cont. from page 3

At national level, there are several attractive incentives for recruiters.

- 5, 10, 15 - shamrock pins with the appropriate number.
- 25 - Commander-in-Chief membership coin and citation.
- 50 - National aide-de-camp cap and citation.
- 75 - VFW leather travel bag.
- 175 - Commemorative medallion set.
- 250 or more - \$1,000.00 stipend toward attending the VFW National Convention and a distinctive cap, citation and name tag.
- The VFW member who signs up the greatest number of new or recovered members greater than 250 by July 1, 2017, will win Recruiter of the Year and will receive a \$1,000.00 stipend toward attending

the convention; reserved seating at the opening session; a special cap, citation and name badge plus the Commander-in-Chief's Crystal Eagle.

In addition to these incentives our Commander in Chief, Brian Duffy, is offering a special "Pot O' Gold" member drawing. For every five new/reinstated members recruited between July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 you will receive one chance and for each increment of 25 new/reinstated members you will receive an additional 10 chances to be one of three winners who, along with a guest, will accompany Chief Duffy on an all-expense paid trip to Ireland in the fall of 2017.

You might think it's a little late in the year to be trying for any of these awards but there are still five months to qualify and remember that in each new VFW year there are prizes like these (except the trip to Ireland) so recruit for this year's prizes but also plan for succeeding years.



Upcoming Events

Feb. 2, 2017, 7 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting

Feb. 16, 2017, 6:30 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner: Carnitas, saffron rice, cole slaw, cornbread and apple cake by Cleone (\$3 for members, \$5 for guests)

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

February Birthday Greetings!

Members receive a free social dinner in your birthday month

Carlos Alarcon-Viera
Brooke Barnes
John Buck
Scott Daniels
Harold Katelnikoff
Tony Parks
Ralph Stevens
Georgia Warrix

New member spotlight: John Van Buskirk



John Van Buskirk served in the USMC and became eligible for the VFW through service in Vietnam.

Welcome to our post, John.

The Seeligs 'Due' Australia



During the post social Jan. 19 Kay Seelig (pictured) narrated a photo presentation about her and her husband's (member Russ Seelig) two-month trip around Eastern Australia. Kay noted that they were "due" a trip since they both recently retired.