

From the Commander

By Nestor Tamayao



As my reign as Post Commander comes to a close in

June, it dawns on me that the tenure of the position is fairly short. Twelve months are not a lot of time to accomplish many things that I had on my “to-do” list regarding the post.

Membership was one of those items I wanted to address. As of this writing, the post is fairly close to 100 percent membership. We lost members over the past several years which affected our membership total. The VFW as a whole has had some difficulties with declining membership. Gone are the heydays after World War II when the VFW was a strong and robust organization with millions of members. Our own post, I’ve been told, was a flurry of activity and social events many years ago with Saturday night dancing, dinners and post and auxiliary meetings with many members in attendance.

The decline in the membership of the VFW is, in

my opinion, attributable in part to its difficulty in recruiting younger veterans. I have talked to younger veterans and have encouraged them to join our post.

Many of them say they would think about it but don’t follow through. I have a feeling it may be the impression they have of the VFW – stodgy members who sit around and drink. But we all know that is far from the truth.

Younger veterans comprise a different generation than a majority of us. So they have different outlooks and ways of doing business. In order for us to attract them, we need to ensure that we make the VFW relevant to them. Our post has had new initiatives, committees and activities that have improved the vibrancy of the post. Members have stepped up to chair events, participate in fund-raisers such as Buddy Poppy distributions, and improve communications through social media and our newsletter which resumed publication after many years of being idle.

All of us are “recruiters” for VFW membership. And

when you get an opportunity to talk about the VFW to a prospective new member, bring out what the VFW does and the benefits available with membership. But most importantly, tell them **why** you joined. I’m sure that would perk their interest.

Speaking of membership, I received a letter from National VFW Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy acknowledging Comrade Harold Rodenberger’s recruitment of 10 new and returning members to our post. Comrade Rodenberger’s accomplishment typifies the level of involvement of post members. I thank him for his single-handed effort which is recognized with a special pin indicating the recruitment of 10 members.

Clearly, membership is paramount for the VFW organization and our Post to endure. I certainly can’t see into the future, but I am confident that the VFW and Ballard Eagleson Post 3063 will continue to be a premier fraternal organization with the mission of “Veterans Helping Veterans.”

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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



My update this month is about thanks.

Your post is alive and

well, membership just hit one hundred percent with more to come and our activity list is growing longer with more people becoming involved. Our Facebook page, website and newsletter are thriving thanks to the managers of each and your support.

Our present officers are nearing the end of their terms of office. Thanks to them for going above and beyond to serve our post and the members of our community. New officers will be elected this Thursday and will be waiting in the wings to take over their new positions of authority. Thanks to them for accepting these new responsibilities.

Effective with this month's meeting, our Auxiliary will be furnishing the food for meeting nights. Thank you, Auxiliary, for assuming this responsibility.

Yes, our post is doing well, but today I want to write about YOU, our members, family and guests.

Most people who read this paper are members of our post or family members of members, but since we

post on our website, others also read these words. That doesn't matter because today's column applies to all of you. I want to tell each of you THANK YOU for what you do.

Thank you for being a friend to veterans. Whether you fly our flag, donate money to veterans' causes or simply continue your membership in our VFW, you are helping veterans and their families. There is strength in numbers and your continued membership adds to the clout we have in the other Washington in support of veterans.

Thank you for being a good citizen and community supporter. Whether it's cleaning the street in front of your place, volunteering at your school or library, visiting shut-in friends or just saying "Hi" to your neighbors it all helps to make our community a better place to live.

Many of you support the post and keep your membership current even though you can't attend meetings. Some can't drive at night, some have scheduling conflicts and some are care givers and can't get away. Thanks to all of you for thinking of us and for your continued membership.

A special THANK YOU to those of you who live out-

side Seattle but still maintain your membership in our post. This month we are starting a newsletter column featuring members of our post who are living in areas away from our post. Some are temporary and some are permanent relocations but we value all of you.

Finally, THANK YOU for your support as I perform the duties of Quartermaster. Many of you post changes to your address, phone, etc., and pay your dues directly to the VFW National website thus saving me the time and effort. Members of the various committees share the financial decisions that are necessary to run the post. Many of you stop by the office just to say "Hi." Your help and support make this job so much easier.

When I had the medical problem last month I was heartened and humbled by the many of you who asked after my health and kept me in your prayers. THANK YOU!

I would like to greet each of you personally but, since I can't, let me say again, and again, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

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We're on the web and Facebook!

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What is District 2 and What Does It Do?

By Harold Rodenberger

On February 18th I attended one of the quarterly meetings of Washington VFW District 2. This time we held the annual memorial service for departed members of our posts and auxiliaries in addition to our regular business meeting.

There are currently 13 districts in the State of Washington. Each district is composed of between five and twelve posts. In our district there are seven posts covering the Seattle and Vashon area.

There are no members of the district, as such. The officers and delegates who attend and conduct district meetings remain members of their individual posts. The district is an administrative level of command between post and department (state) headquarters. In addition, each district commander is a department officer.

In earlier years, the district officers were much more involved with the subordinate posts' activities, helping with training and guidance of post officers. As with many chains of command, modern communications have reduced that role. Yet, even today they have responsibilities to inspect the books of the post quartermasters, choose district winners of the Youth Essay and Voice of Democracy contests, and select the district winners of the various community honorees such as Teacher of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Scout of the Year, Policeman of the Year, and Veteran of the Year.

Good post officers often become district officers and promising officers at that level often work their way up to positions at the department level.



Left to right, District 2 officers Surgeon (& WA State Jr. Vice Cdr.) Linda Fairbank, Officer of the Day Thom Fermstad, Sr. Vice Cdr Michelle Love, Cdr. Tiffany Bothell, Chaplain Theresa Faulconer, Jr. Vice Cdr. Ray Fairbank, Adjutant Harold Rodenberger, and Quartermaster Richard Moore.

The next District 2 meeting will be held at our hall in Ballard on May 6, 2017, with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting at 1:00 p.m. It will be the annual District 2 Convention featuring election and installation of officers along with some other business. Please try to

attend this meeting to give our post a good representation.



VFW District 2 Fundraiser

Please join us for Dinner -
Chicken Alfredo and all the fixin's

Saturday, April 8th, 2017,

at Rainier Post & Auxiliary #2289,
6038 S. Pilgrim St. Seattle, WA 98118

Social at 4:00, Dinner at 5:00pm

Loyalty Day Speech after dinner.

Raffles and "Karaoke by Kami" to follow!

\$20.00 Donation, \$10.00 for Children

See a District 2 member for tickets or call Richard & Barbara Moore at

425-271-2948.





VFW Supports World War I Centennial Activities

By Brian Duffy, VFW Commander-in-Chief



April marks the 100th Anniversary of the United States' entrance into World War I. This is a very solemn reminder of the more than 100,000 U.S. Troops who sacrificed so others might live in peace. The VFW has joined other veteran service organizations in supporting the World

War One Centennial Commission's efforts to honor the heroism of those Americans who served and to commemorate the centennial of this global event. The official launch of events by the Commission is scheduled for April 6 at the World War I Memorial in Kansas City, Mo., a little more than a mile from the VFW National Headquarters.

The public programs and events hosted by the Centennial Commission are scheduled throughout the year at venues across the country, culminating with the dedication of the National World War I Memorial in Washington D.C.'s Pershing Park. There also will be events planned overseas to honor U.S. veterans. I will have the opportunity to visit the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial located just outside Paris in Marnes-la-Coquette in April. The Memorial commemorates the courage and the sacrifice of the American pi-

lots who came to France before April 1917 to fight with the French military, collectively called the "Lafayette Flying Corps." It also honors the longstanding friendship between France and the United States, where each has come to the other's assistance in defending liberty and freedom.

The VFW has a proud history of supporting veterans of every era, and those of WWI are no exception. Following the Great War, VFW played a significant role in ensuring WWI veterans received the benefits they earned. The support the VFW provided in pursuing legislation securing the WWI bonus was the turning point in its history.

In 1927, the VFW maintained a membership of only 60,000 and was described at the time as "an organization not sufficiently large enough to make it a vital factor in public sentiment" by members of the House Committee on World War Veteran Legislation. But by 1936, its membership soared to more than 300,000. This was attributed to its incredible efforts in proposing and continuing to push controversial legislation that demanded full and immediate payment in cash for the World War I bonus.



By Jan. 22, 1936, at the height of the depression and after numerous vetoes by several presidents, the bonus was granted. At 1.3 million-strong, we continue our WWI veteran support legacy by continuing to stand up for veterans and their benefits. VFW's many programs and initiatives have made it one of the top veteran service organization in the U.S.



Members Away from Home: Sean Digre

By Harold Rodenberger

Post member Sean and Auxiliary member Sarwat Digre are presently living in Newport, Ore, while Sean is on a two-year sea duty tour with the NOAA Ship Bell M. Shimada.



Auxiliary member Sarwat Digre and post member Sean Digre.

Sean gained his VFW eligibility from service in Afghanistan. He spent eighteen years in the Army and then completed his schooling at the University of Washing-

ton, Divers Institute of Technology, and finally the Basic Officers Candidate Training Course at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. He now is beginning a new career with The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Best wishes on your NOAA career, Sean. Keep in touch and send us an update when you can.



Sean receiving his BOCT diploma from Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, former Astronaut and Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator.

Post offers weekly yoga class



Give your body and mind a treat by participating in a weekly yoga session at the post hall. The group meets on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Bring a yoga mat, blanket to cushion knees, a yoga block if you have one, and wear loose fitting clothing. Yoga sessions are free.

The Auxiliary Corner

By Margaret Philips, Post 3063 Auxiliary President

We - the members of the Auxiliary - are pleading with all current and past members both male and female to step forward and get our membership up...we need YOUR help. This is a great organization that needs everyone's help. We wish to continue our great work helping all vets. In the past they helped us now it's our turn to help them!



Come to a meeting or a Social and get to know your members. Our meetings are on the first Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. The social is on the third Thursday of the month and dinners are served at 6:30 p.m. The meeting hall is located at 2812 NW Market Street, Seattle 98107.

For more information or help please contact me at 206-412-7384.



Upcoming Events

April 6, 2017, 7 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting: Hamburgers and hot dogs with the trimmings

April 8, 2017, 5 p.m. - District 2 Fundraiser, 6038 S. Pilgrim St., Seattle, 98118 (\$20 per person)

April 20, 2017, 6:30 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner: Mixed nuts and a champagne sip before dinner, Boeuf Bourguignon, mashed potatoes, Caesar salad, French bread, Gateaux Breton for dessert. **Guest Speaker: James Fuda, Director of Crime Stoppers Seattle** (\$3 for members, \$5 for guests)

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

April Birthday Greetings!

Members receive a free social dinner in their birthday month

Bennett Anderson
Charles Anderson
Robert Bornemeier
Joseph Fitzgerald
Stephen Franklin
Donald Goudy
William Jonsson
Robert Kettle
Herbert Leake
Justin Mamallo
John Routhier
Matthew Santorsola
Aaron Stoltz
Seth Swanson

New member spotlight



Ronald Ernst, U.S. Navy veteran, gained his eligibility from Vietnam.



Pio Park, U.S. Army Air veteran, gained his eligibility from Korea.

VSO talks VA benefits



Cindy Kartes, an accredited VFW veterans service officer, discusses VA benefits during the post's March 16 social.