

From the Commander

By Pete Krawitz



Comrades,

On August 12th, Comrade Rodenberger and I attended the Department of Washington's "School of Instruction" in Everett.

This event gave us the opportunity to hear from our new State Commander (John Bradburn) and Auxiliary President (Laurie Lukas). They discussed their vision/theme for the 2017-2018 calendar year. Department's theme this year is TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More. The State Leadership team is particularly interested in the VFW and Auxiliary working together to achieve more.

Post 3063 is already making some changes to work more closely with our own Auxiliary. Earlier this month, I met with our Auxiliary president (Margaret

Philips) to discuss some ideas and plan a few small changes that will hopefully increase the collaboration between our two groups. We will announce a few of these minor changes at our September business meeting.

While the summer is coming to a close, we do have a great event planned to see us into the fall. Our annual Spaghetti Dinner and Raffle Fundraiser will be held on September 9th. We hope to see you, your family, and your friends there! While we are on the topic of fundraisers, if you have any ideas or wish to lead a fundraiser down the road, please let me know. I've already had a few members approach me with some great ideas.

Lastly, have you ever wondered which pieces of legislation the VFW supports? You can find the list here at this website: <http://capwiz.com/vfw/issues/bills/>

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If you have any new business or good of the order topics that you want to discuss at the next business meeting, please send an e-mail to adjutant@vfwseattle.org.



Commander Krawitz and QM Rodenberger attended the School of Instruction in Everett on August 12.



The **Ballard Eagleson Patriot** is published by the newsletter editor for Post 3063, Seattle, WA. This official newsletter is an authorized publication for members of Post 3063. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the newsletter editor. Its contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the VFW.

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Commander: Pete Krawitz

Sr Vice Commander: Joe Tiffany

Jr Vice Commander: Joe Fitzgerald

Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger

Adjutant: Alyson Teeter

Judge Advocate: Norm Limric

Chaplain: Bill Griffith

Surgeon: Dan Stokke

Officer of the Day: Vacant

3-Year Trustee: Russ Seelig

2-Year Trustee: Aaron Stoltz

1-Year Trustee: James Williams

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

We're on the web and Facebook!

<http://www.vfwseattle.org>

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

<http://www.vfwseattle.org>

Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



It's been said that all things change. Geological change appears unchanging to us while Moore's Law concerning computing seems to allow change so rapid we can hardly follow.

As we grow older we change physically and mentally. It seems just yesterday I was a young man with many goals, working hard and supporting a family. Suddenly I realize I'm an old man having achieved many of those goals, approaching the winter of my life and finding the changes in our world and country almost incomprehensible.

Change is happening in our post as well. Commander Krawitz has changed our meeting format with the post meeting together with our auxiliary in the large hall followed by separate business meetings, with the post remaining in the large hall and the auxiliary moving to the smaller room. Starting the monthly meeting together with our auxiliary promotes teamwork and

encourages shared goals. It looks to me like a good change.

Yoga class resumes on 9/16 when our yoga teacher, Alicia, returns from vacation. If you want to change your body and mind, even temporarily, come on out for yoga, it stretches your body and mind while enriching your spirit.

Our spaghetti feed fund raiser on September 9th changed from years past when it was held in the spring. Buy your tickets early and take advantage of the advance raffle ticket sales. Hard to beat 30 tickets for twenty dollars and it's a good way to increase your odds of winning your favorite prize.

Speaking of, there are many wonderful prizes for the fund-raising raffle. Local businesses have generously contributed some wonderful gifts just waiting for your lucky draw. Mark your calendar, buy your tickets and let's have a great time while raising money for our post relief fund.

We have received many flags deserving of

respectful retirement so we are changing our flag retirement ceremony from one to two this month. First one will start at 10:00 a.m. on the sixth and the second will start at 11:30, September 13th, after yoga.

Now for some personal change. After 42 years in Magnolia, my wife and I are selling our house and moving farther north, or east, or maybe south or west. We've gotten older, the place was convenient to downtown and our VFW post but change reigns eternal so we decided we couldn't wait any longer to change home locations. If we find a place close enough to Ballard, I'll stay active in the post and even if our new home is farther way, I'll work with whoever you choose to take on the responsibility of quartermaster in the future.

As these changes happen, each of us must contribute what we can to further our VFW goals.

I wish everyone in our post more success during the months and years ahead.



Post 3063 Reps Attend National Convention in New Orleans

By Nestor Tamayao

The VFW's 118th National Convention took place in New Orleans, La. July 22-26, 2017. It was attended by six post delegates and one alternate delegate. They were Commander Nestor Tamayao, Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger, Junior Vice Commander Joe Fitzgerald, Trustees Aaron Stoltz, James Williams and Russ Seelig, and Surgeon Dan Stokke.

While the initial business session occurred on Monday, July 24, there were plenty of events on the Saturday and Sunday before. In addition to registration, there was a health fair, various committee meetings, a Gold Star Families reception, membership workshop, VFW programs workshop, veterans' benefits forum, Protestant service, Catholic Mass and a First Time Attendees Reception for members like Comrades Fitzgerald and Stokke.

At the Joint Opening Session on Monday, VFW and Auxiliary members attended the formal opening of the 118th National Convention by VFW Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy. A video was shown that recapped the many successes of the VFW in 2016-2017.

When the business session resumed after lunch, the hall seating was reconfigured by state. Each department commander put a placard bearing the state's name on a pedestal. State officers, post delegates and members sat with their respective state.

The business sessions on Monday and Tuesday had various speakers and the awarding of honors to recipients who were active in VFW programs and to sponsors of the convention. Tuesday evening highlighted a patriotic rally.

On Wednesday, resolutions and by-law changes were introduced and voted on. The morning culminated in the election and installation of national officers for the ensuing year. As part of the installation process, elected officers parade throughout the large hall followed by delegations from each state with the de-



Washington delegation members, including post Comrades Tamayao, Stoltz, and Stokke, walk the newly installed Commander-in-Chief around the delegate floor.

partment commander holding up the state's name on a placard. The service song of each elected officer is played as the parade commences and is repeated until the parade finishes. It is quite the pomp and circumstance.

While the convention contains many work-related items, there was still some time for fun and relaxation. The hospitality rooms afforded a place where a member could relax, meet members from other states, and enjoy food and libations. There are many places of interest in New Orleans with its many museums, churches and restaurants with fine cuisines. The French Quarter was also a go-to destination. Some members opted for a boat swamp tour which gave a close-up look at a swamp as well as the resident critter: the alligator.

The annual National Convention is an integral part of VFW business and each VFW post is required to register one or more of their respective number of delegates each year. The hosting city considers the convention an economic boost as it can bring in up to 10,000 visitors. Next year's National Convention will be in Kansas City, Mo. in July.



Sign Up for Email Blasts

Would you like to know about local veteran deals or volunteering? Well you're in luck: the post has created email lists for veteran deals and volunteer opportunities! Once you're a member of the group mailing list, you'll have the ability to share information with the entire list.



You can now sign up for each list by emailing Adjutant Aly Teeter at adjutant@vfwseattle.org or text/call at 206-701-9259.

VA Coordinator Needed

Veteran patients at the Seattle VA Medical Center need OUR help! Post 3063 lost its VA volunteer coordinator and we need someone to step up and take charge of this important duty. This position will need to coordinate with the hospital and the post to set up hospital visits during holidays. The post has been absent previous holidays and we've heard that veterans have noticed.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Quartermaster Rodenberger at quartermaster@vfwseattle.org.

Ken Burns Vietnam Documentary Airs Sept. 17 on PBS

Courtesy of www.pbs.org

Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's ten-part, 18-hour documentary series, *THE VIETNAM WAR*, tells the epic story of one of the most consequential, divisive, and controversial events in American history as it has never before been told on film. Visceral and immersive, the series explores the human dimensions of the war through revelatory testimony of nearly 80 witnesses from all sides—Americans who fought in the war and others who opposed it, as well as combatants and civilians from North and South Vietnam. Ten years in the making, the series includes rarely seen and digitally remastered archival footage from sources around the globe, photographs taken by some of the most

celebrated photojournalists of the 20th Century, historic television broadcasts, evocative home movies, and secret audio recordings from inside the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations. *THE VIETNAM WAR*



features more than 100 iconic musical recordings from greatest artists of the era and haunting original music from Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross as well as the Silk Road Ensemble featuring Yo-Yo Ma.

Beginning on September 17, the series will broadcast on your local PBS station, and will be available for streaming on the web (desktop or mobile) and PBS apps for smartphones, tablets, Apple TV, Roku and Amazon Fire TV.



Fundraiser Quickly Approaching

Post 3063's annual Spaghetti and Raffle Fundraiser is less than two weeks away! Make sure you tell your friends and family and sell your tickets by Monday, September 4. Tickets are available for purchase online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vfw-post-3063-spaghetti-raffle-tickets-36165259264>.

According to fundraiser organizer, Trustee Russ Seelig, you can buy your raffle tickets at a cheaper price before the event. "Raffle tickets are \$1, 25 tickets for \$20 at the dinner, and people can get 30 tickets for \$20 if purchased before the day of the dinner," Seelig said. The raffle will include a number of gift certificates from local businesses, a gift basket from Reuben's Brews, and a handmade quilt donated by John Hoglund.

Post members need to turn in their ticket stubs and money to Russ Seelig by Tuesday, September 5. He can be reached at 206-423-1150.

SPAGHETTI & Raffle

Come and enjoy home cooked, **WORLD CLASS** spaghetti while you help the Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3603 support local charities

SeaTac USO
Seattle VA Hospital
Boy Scouts
Fisher House
To name a few!

Donated by LOCAL businesses!

SO MANY RAFFLES!

TREMENDOUS Raffles!

September 9th, 2017
Cocktails and raffle at 5pm
Dinner at 7pm **pre-**
Admission: \$20.00 (12 and under free)
Advance Raffle Tickets: 30 for \$20
At Door Raffle Tickets: 25 for \$20

Ballard Eagleson
VFW Post 3603
2812 NW Market St.
Seattle, WA. 98107
(206) 782-8618

WDVA hosting Women Veterans Summit in Lynnwood Sept. 16



The Women Veterans Summit will be September 16, 2017 at the Lynnwood Convention Center. Registration is free and open at www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-women-veterans-summit-tickets-33634142626.

This summit will provide comprehensive information regarding federal and state benefits and managing the challenges women veterans of all ages and services face today. Registration is free for all veterans and current members of the armed forces, but donations and sponsorships will be gladly accepted.



Upcoming Events

September 6, 2017, 10 a.m. - Flag retirement, post parking lot

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

September 9, 2017, 7 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Spaghetti and Raffle

Fundraiser. Tickets available until September 4 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vfw-post-3063-spaghetti-raffle-tickets-36165259264>. (\$20 admission)

September 13, 2017, 11:30 a.m. - Flag retirement, post parking lot

September 16, 2017 - WDVA Women Veterans Summit at the Lynnwood Convention Center. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-women-veterans-summit-tickets-33634142626.

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

September Birthday Greetings!

Members receive a free social dinner in their birthday month

Roland Bailey
Robert Drew
Robert Galloway
David Garcia
William Hoeller
Joseph Legaz
Tom Morgan
Gordon Olauson
Paul Park
Harold Rodenberger
Nathan Swails
Bert Usitalo
John Van Buskirk
Jerome Wald
David Wikstrom

Color Guard Represents



The Post 3063 Color Guard presents the colors at a veterans recognition ceremony at the Esperanza Apartments in Seattle August 9, 2017.

Yoga at Post 3063
Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.
Classes are FREE!

