

From the Commander

By Pete Krawitz



What a great way to end the summer. We pulled off a very successful spaghetti dinner and raffle event, raising over \$4K for our various programs. A huge thank you to all who made this event a

success. A special thank you to Comrade Russ Seelig, his wife, Kay, and their friends and family who volunteered a significant amount of time coordinating the event.

I'd also like to acknowledge the great work our color guard is doing. Many of you had a chance to witness the color guard in action during the Spaghetti Dinner. The team looked sharp! As of late, we've been receiving many requests for our color guard to conduct ceremonies at various events in the region. We are not only honoring our veterans, flag, and country during these events but are also increasing Post 3063's visibility in the community. I'd like to thank all of the members of the color guard for their hard work and dedication. I'd also like to thank Comrades Bill Hoeller and Joe Fitzgerald for their hard work in planning, equipping, and leading the color guard. For those who might be interested in joining, please reach out to Comrade Joe Fitzgerald (colorguard@vfwseattle.org).

We've also been pretty fortunate to attract quite a few new members over the past few months. Many of these new members have dove right in and have been assisting with some of the activities

around the post. To some of the newer members, we still have a few committees that I'd like to see brought online. The Community Activities and Scholarship committees in particular. If you are interested in leading either of these committees, please let me know.

Changing gears ever so slightly, I'd like to discuss one project that we will be working on over the next few months. As many of you know, we've been discussing the idea of refurbishing the post for a few years now. The purpose of a refurbishment would be to make the facility more attractive, comfortable, and accessible for our members and also increase the hall's rental desirability and value. Before we can make any proposals on the refurbishment front, we've determined that we need a better understanding of our current situation. Over the next few months, I'll be working hand-in-hand with the house committee and quartermaster to analyze our facility's operation and maintenance situation. While the post's finances are relatively stable, we want to ensure that we are planning accordingly and maintain this stability for many years to come. To keep our finances healthy, especially in this rapidly changing and expensive city, we need to make sure that we can adapt to the changing needs and preferences of our communities, both the veteran community and the Ballard / Seattle community. We will be sharing regular updates as we make progress with our analysis.

I look forward to seeing you at our next business meeting.

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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

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We're on the web and Facebook!

<http://www.vfwseattle.org>

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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



September was a good month for our VFW Post.

We're off to a

good start in the membership department with six new members on board. This puts us in the lead for our district but the year is still young.

Our commander has set a goal of fifty percent above our 100% goal so it will take steady growth to achieve that lofty goal. Every one of us needs to keep an eye out for potential new members. Remember, very few new members ask you if they can join, almost all need to be invited before they will join our ranks.

We held a great fundraiser on Sept. 9. About 130 lively participants had a tasty spaghetti dinner and did their best to take home some of the many attractive raffle prizes available. Special thanks to Chairman Russ Seelig who organized the event, solicited many of the prizes and did yeoman duty as sous chef.

Hats off to Kay Seelig for cooking her famous sauce and the rest of the dinner. My favorite part of the dinner was that complex salad which was dressed just right, tossed just prior to serving and served as a perfect foil to the rich spaghetti. Thank you to the Seelig family and the other volunteers in and out of the kitchen for their work. Kudos to all our other volunteers who gathered raffle prizes from local businesses and individuals, sold dinner tickets to friends and neighbors and, most importantly, attended the event. As I write this, the numbers aren't final yet but it's safe to say we made a lot of money for our relief fund and had a good time doing it.

Speaking of food, Chef Kay was out of town for the social so Russ and helpers stepped up and served a Vietnamese meal. If you were there you know it was good, but if you were absent, you missed Banh Mi, spring rolls, salad etc., that brought a

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refreshing taste of Vietnam to our Ballard VFW Hall.

Our two September flag retirement ceremonies had to be cancelled. One because of the smoky air and one because of unpredictable winds. We will be having at least one replacement ceremony this month, depending on weather, so please keep an eye on the website if you want to join in this special ceremony.

Commander Krawitz has refined the new meeting format in a more inclusive and stimulating way. If you haven't been to a meeting in the past three months, please plan to attend one of our meetings and join in the new approach.



September Spaghetti Fundraiser Nets \$4K for Relief Fund

By Alyson M. Teeter

After many months of hard work and preparation, VFW Post 3063 volunteers pulled off a successful fundraiser at the post Sept. 9, 2017, raising more than \$4K for the post's Relief Fund.

Three-year Trustee, Russ Seelig, and his family performed a bulk of the work, from collecting raffle items to cooking the food. Their dedication to executing a phenomenal event was evident in the presentation of the raffle items (creative and professional raffle item signage), the amount of raffle items, the large turnout, and the taste of the food. One person was overheard saying, "I've gone to many spaghetti feeds and this is the best spaghetti I've had."

Many other people helped behind the scenes, which included collecting raffle items, buying supplies, and selling tickets. Robert Kettle was instrumental in narrating the schedule of events, which can be a difficult, thankless job. The Color Guard performed a flawless posting of the colors. Special thanks as well to the donors. Donations from Ballard Market (\$200) and Fred Meyer (\$100) were used to purchase food. Donations were received from nearly 40 local sources, making the fundraiser a community-driven event.

Thank you to all who attended and come again next year!



Top right: The kitchen volunteers hard at work. Middle right: A sampling of the 40+ raffle items, which included handmade blankets. Bottom right: Post 3063 Social Media Officer, Bob Kettle (and his daughter), emcee the event. Bottom left: Guests finish eating and wait for the raffle to begin.



105 year-old WWII Vet Joins Post During Birthday Party

By Harold Rodenberger

A few weeks ago, Julie Small called our office wondering if we could help celebrate her father's 105th birthday. Since her father had served in the Army in World War II she thought it would be appropriate if some VFW members could attend the birthday celebration and render honors to her father.

On Sept. 16, Color Guard Captain Joe Fitzgerald, and I arrived at the birthday celebration for Joseph Alex Small. Family and friends gathered around as we congratulated him on his birthday, presented two small American Flags, and his new VFW cap. Near the end of our visit, he whispered in my ear, "I feel overwhelmed."

As Joe and I left the party and returned to our homes, I reflected on the feelings of love, friend-

ship, and community I had felt there. In addition to Julie and Alex's son Tom, who had flown up from his home in Texas, there were other family members, neighbors and friends from various backgrounds and circumstances, united in celebrating this momentous occasion.



Color Guard Captain Joe Fitzgerald and Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger visited World War II veteran Joseph Alex Small on his 105th birthday Sept. 16, 2017.

Sometimes I feel near overwhelmed by all the news of rancor, hate, and divisiveness that bombards us daily. Then I see and feel the powerful feelings of good will at an occasion such as this and am reassured that there are millions of good people in every corner of our country. They gather at homes, schools, churches and other places simply to be together and celebrate some special event.

Good will and friendship usually don't make the news but it's good to remember that such feelings are alive and well despite news to the contrary.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essays due Oct. 31

Courtesy of VFW.org

Established in 1947, the **Voice of Democracy** audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The 2017-18 theme is "American History: Our Hope for the Future."

Each year more than 132,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's **Patriot's Pen** youth essay contest. The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by draft-

ing a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. The 2017-18 theme is "America's Gift to My Generation."

Want to apply for either of these scholarships? Go to <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>, read the entry rules, and download the entry form before you submit your essay to Post 3063. **The deadline for entering either contest is October 31, 2017.** For more information, contact Harold Rodenberger at quartermaster@vfwseattle.org.



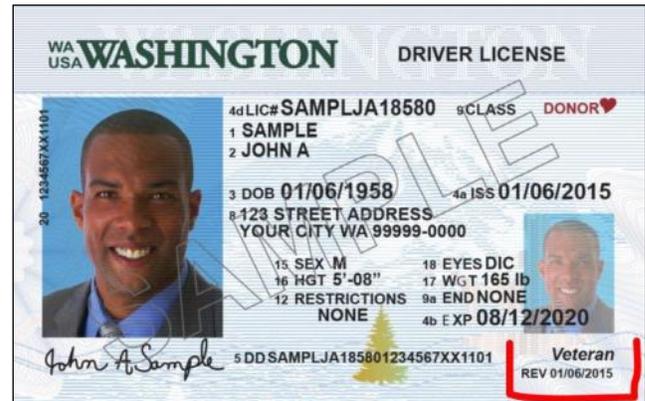
Veteran Designation Available for WA State Driver's Licenses

Courtesy of VFW Department of WA Facebook Page

You can now get a Veteran designation on your WA driver licenses or ID card. If you're only changing your veterans status, you will get a replacement license with the veteran status added for free. (If you're renewing your license or adding an endorsement you will need to pay the normal fees for that.)

Bring your DD Form 214 that shows "honorable" or "general under honorable conditions" status to a driver licensing office. If you don't have your DD Form 214 you can request your military service records online, by mail, or by fax at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>.

More information about the license is available at <http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/military.html>.



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Upcoming Events

Mondays, 9 a.m. - Free yoga class, Post 3063 (bring a mat)

October 5, 2017, 7 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting

October 19, 2017, 6:30 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner: Meal TBD (\$5 donation)

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

October Birthday Greetings!

Members receive a free social dinner in their birthday month

- Stephen Acuna
- Erwin Boyer
- Roger Calvert Jr.
- Dan Cameron
- Roberto Cantu
- Genaro Garcia
- James Kershaw
- Michael Mahar
- Roger Mebust
- William Metcalf
- Joshua Michaels
- Joseph Robinson
- Allen Schwerer
- Daniel Syverson
- Karen Testa
- Griff Tilmont
- Evan Turner
- Richard Westfall
- James Williams

New Member Spotlight



Tiffany Cavin
U.S. Army
Iraq and
Afghanistan



Phillip Lee
U.S. Army
Iraq and
Afghanistan



Anthony Rose
U.S. Army
Afghanistan



Joseph Small
U.S. Army
World War II
(Europe)