

## From the Commander

*By Pete Krawitz*



2017 was an exciting year for Post 3063. When I began my journey as your post commander six months ago, I laid out four critical priorities; Membership, Community, Accessibility / Continuity, and the

Auxiliary.

On the membership front, at the time of writing, our post sits at 88%. We need about 16 new or reinstated members to meet the 100% goal. I'm confident we will make it. While my stretch goal of 150% may not be attainable this year, I have no reason to doubt that we can double Post 3063's current membership count (currently 142 members) in the next 2-3 years, especially as our city continues to grow at this rapid pace.

In regards to the auxiliary, there are still many unknowns and we are still without an auxiliary president. A few individuals have expressed interest in taking on the role; however, we will know for sure after the special elections that will take place on Jan. 4. Our auxiliary has the potential to be a very critical and active partner once more. Whatever the outcome of this election, I ask that we all be patient and supportive of the new president and our brothers and sisters in the auxiliary.

I couldn't be more impressed with our community outreach this year. Our color guard, under the leadership of Jr. Vice Commander Joe Fitzgerald, has been in high demand and busier than ever. We also have a new VA hospital visit coordina-

tor (Comrade Guncay) and continue to make our regular visits to the patients during the holidays. Even some of our new members (Comrades Cavin and Rose) immediately jumped into helping the veteran community and represented Post 3063 by volunteering at the recent Seattle Stand Down event. These are just a few examples of the excellent community work our post members have engaged in this year.

Regarding accessibility and continuity, this is what most of the leadership team is going to be focusing on over the next six months. I have asked the leadership team to start documenting some of our processes. We are going to digitize our records and create templates that will make running the post a little less daunting for those considering taking on a post leadership role in the future.

Change, no matter how small, is never easy. I'm very thankful of everyone's support, guidance, patience, and most importantly, the willingness to test out some of the changes we've implemented this year (meeting format, projector, etc...). While none of these changes are necessarily set in stone, I believe many of these slight modifications are the first few steps to make our post more resilient and able to continue operating for many years to come. With that being said, we still have a lot of work to do in 2018. I look forward to your continued support as we continue to solidify our presence as Seattle's premier VFW post in this rapidly changing city.

All the best to you and yours in 2018.  
 Happy New Year, Comrades!

### Inside this issue:

Quartermaster Update	<b>2</b>
Holiday Party	<b>3</b>
Boy Scouts	<b>4</b>
Zoom Software	<b>5</b>
In Memoriam	<b>6</b>
Herb Leake Tribute	<b>7</b>
Event Calendar	<b>8</b>



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.

This newsletter is published quarterly and submissions must be received by the editor five days before the last day of a quarter for inclusion in the next quarter'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: 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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## Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



The turn of another calendar year marks the midpoint of our VFW year. As

with most of my cohort, it seems the years flow by faster the older we get. I'm not sure what I did last Wednesday but I vividly recall earning my VFW eligibility in Vietnam even though it was over fifty years ago.

### The year also passed quickly at VFW Post 3063. Some highlights include:

- Another year of membership increase
- Enthusiastic officers filling our organizational chairs
- Many visits to the VA Hospital and other nursing and retirement homes to visit our veteran comrades
- Greater activity on our social media platforms
- A grand fund raiser dinner

- Increasing ceremonial participation by our nicely uniformed color/honor guard
- Greater numbers of diners enjoying the menus at our monthly social
- New meeting arrangements and format for our monthly business meetings

Looking forward, we see both challenges and rewards. On the membership front, we've lost several of our older members, some younger members have relocated or otherwise moved on and recruiting new members is slower than usual; our building continues its relentless march toward old age; our budget revenue stream is outpaced by expenditures and the color guard needs more members to fulfil the many requests we receive for ceremonies.

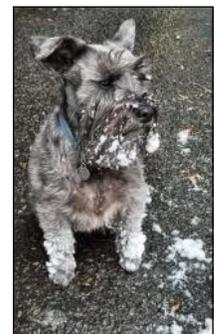
As for rewards, more of the younger generations of war fighters are joining with us and attending meetings; our administrative procedures are being stream-

lined and updated and more officers are accepting positions of responsibility to work on the many tasks involved in a growing post. As we meet the challenges our rewards will increase.

Back to the calendar year. A symbolic fresh start inspires me to do more for fellow veterans and my community; to find the bright side where I can and accept the not so bright if I must.

I need to make more pleasant interactions and less of the surly kind or, "wag more, bark less" as the bumper sticker says.

Finally, I resolve sometimes to join my little dog, Kuro, and romp in the snow or otherwise relax and enjoy life.





## Young and Old Celebrate the Holidays Together at Post 3063

Post 3063 hosted its annual holiday party during the December social on Dec. 21, 2017.

It was a festive event for young and old. Nearly a hundred members, loved ones, and guests attended and dined on free beef tenderloin cooked by Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger (Chef Kay was recuperating from injuries sustained during a fall. Get well soon, Kay!). Harold also organized the event.

Anne Leake gave gifts to the children and adults as Santa while Annette Russell played holiday music on her keyboard. This year even included multiple Christmas carol sing-a-longs!



From top right: Comrade Limric leads a sing-a-long with party goers.

Bottom right: Some of the kids open gifts from Santa.

Bottom left: The kids wait to receive their gifts from Santa.

Top left: Annette Russell thanks Anne Leake for inviting her to participate in the social the past several years and for her playing Santa.





## Boy Scouts Receive Donation from Post

By Gail Engler

Troop 80 from Magnolia attended the post social Nov. 16, 2017 to accept a \$150 donation from Post 3063. The troop was represented by eight Boy Scouts, Post 3063 member Elizabeth Servey, who is the troop's Advancement Chair, her husband Brian Servey, and Molly Mort, both Assistant Scoutmasters.

The Troop is very active, especially during the spring and summer months when they hike, camp, and work on their outdoor survival skills. Comrade Servey said the money will be used to purchase more camping gear, which will be put to good use during their outdoor adventures.

On Veterans Day these scouts also helped with the post's visit to the VA hospital. They are all very eager and enthusiastic!



Boy Scout Troop 80 accepts Post 3063's \$150 donation from Commander Pete Krawitz Nov. 16, 2017.

## Why Use Vetverify.org and ID.me?

By Bill Griffith

There are two new hoops for us vets to jump through: <https://www.vetverify.org/> and <https://www.id.me/>. Why should you bother? Well at Vetverify you can shop at the exchange. The exchange lets you buy online at the same price as active military and at the same time you save the sales tax.

The other website, id.me, is now used by the VA for secure messaging and access to the VA system. An added benefit of id.me is that you can get online discounts at many stores.



You can also use id.me to prove to stores in person via your smart phone that you are a vet. If you have served since 1985 the process of signing up is straight forward. If you are like me and you served before 1985 you will need to provide your DD214 to both verify.org and id.me.

If you are having trouble getting these benefits please contact the post where several of us can help you with the process.



## Zoom Software Digitally Connects Members to Post Meetings

By Charlie Anderson

Recently, Commander Krawitz invited me to test Web conferencing software to view monthly post meetings because we now live in Montana. Later, Pete asked me to write an article about my experience.

On Nov. 9, I sat down at my PC in the den of our mountain home and downloaded the necessary small application. I put on headphones, logged into the conference site and prepared to watch. For the next 90 minutes or so, I heard everything that happened in the post meeting. With a few exceptions everyone who spoke was very clear.

With video conferencing remote users can listen, watch and communicate during the course of the meeting by text or voice. If a secure authentication system were created to verify legal membership it

might be possible to participate in votes. Implementing this last feature probably would need a bylaws change.

To use this program effectively you need either a PC or Apple computer, a laptop/pad or Smart Phone. Lacking one of these, you still can listen to a meeting with a landline or wireless phone.

Using conferencing software from your home or office is easy—almost a no-brainer. Given the percentage of the total membership typically attending meetings when I lived in Seattle (around 20% I think), live video meetings could be a way for members who don't or can't make monthly meetings to regain some sense of participation. It might even encourage some to get back into active involvement.

Give it a try!

## Post 3063 Auxiliary Needs More Members, Leaders

Are you related to a veteran who is or was eligible to join the VFW? You may be eligible to join the VFW Auxiliary! Ballard Eagleson Post 3063's Auxiliary is looking for more new members. They are also in need of people to fill leadership positions.

Check out <https://vfwauxiliary.org/join-us/eligibility-information/> to learn more about the eligibility criteria.

Please contact the post if you are interested in joining!

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## Post Members Visit Veteran Patients on Veterans Day



Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063 members gather after their regular holiday trip to the Seattle VA Medical Center Nov. 10, 2017 to visit their brothers and sisters in the hospital. This Veterans Day, we were joined by The Boy Scouts, Troop 80 out of Magnolia/Ballard, who helped us hand out snacks and provided handwritten Veterans Day cards to all of the patients.

## In Memoriam For Our Recently Departed Comrades

*During the December business meeting the post charter was draped with a black cloth for the following comrades who recently passed away. The charter will remain draped for 30 days in their honor.*

**Herb Leake**, U.S. Army, World War II: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/seattletimes/obituary.aspx?n=herbert-gorham-leake&pid=187420668&fhid=10654> (Also, see profile on next page)

**James M. Creim**, U.S. Army, Korean War: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/seattletimes/obituary.aspx?pid=187461366>





## Herb Leake: Engineer, Aid to MacArthur & Devoted Husband

By Gail Engler

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Post 3063 Life Member Herb Leake who passed away on Nov. 21, 2017 at the age of 97.

Herb was born on April 8, 1920 in St. Charles, Illinois. Herb was a Veteran of WWII and served in the U.S. Army, a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. Herb attended ROTC at University of Washington, and studied Aeronautical Engineering. He was working at Boeing when he received a letter from the Army saying he had been selected for the service. He wanted to join the Navy but was told he could join the Army and transfer later. That never happened, of course.

Boeing tried to keep Herb working there instead of going off to war, saying he was a critical employee to the aeronautical industry. Herb was initially a riveter on the B-17 program at Boeing, then a few months later he transferred to Material as an estimator. He remained there until he entered the U.S. Army on June 14, 1944. He had received a deferment for a few years but eventually joined the Army and was sent to Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA. He was wearing PFC stripes on his uniform and was asked where his stripes were. He was given corporal stripes and told to sew them on right away. He was eventually commissioned a second lieutenant after completing OCS.

Herb was sent to the Pacific Theater, which he felt guilty about as he spoke German and thought his language skills could be used in Europe. Many of his OCS buddies went to Europe and they were all killed in the Battle of the Bulge. As his wife said, "Herb's life seemed to be charmed." He wasn't sent to Europe and survived the Philippines. In the Philippines he served as an aide to General MacArthur. He was told that his unit would be a part of the invasion of Japan and that there would be no survivors. Luckily, Herb survived his WWII service.

Sometime during the war Herb met his first wife but soon after he returned home from the war his wife asked

for a divorce. A few years later he and Anne met in Seattle. Herb was dating Anne's sister when they first met; she was attending Cornish College. After she graduated and went on with her career in commercial art, Herb started calling Anne.

Anne was teaching dancing in Westlake Center at night. She also was working a job in Port Angeles. She said she had to quit that job to marry Herb due to the long distance between the two cities. Eventually they married on Feb. 14, 1953. They would have celebrated their 65th Anniversary in 2018.

Herb was in the National Guard at the time they met. He retired as a lieutenant colonel after serving 40

years in the National Guard. One of his duty stations was at the old Armory at Seattle Center. He and Anne had three children together and they each had one child from previous marriages. Herb also worked for Boeing at the same time and retired after 40 years. After retirement Herb served as a volunteer at the Museum of Flight and helped restore the Boeing Model plane 247D, which was United Airlines flagship plane for many years. Herb had a private pilot's license and was allowed to help fly the 247D partway from Tucson to Seattle. Herb also belonged to the Highline Flying Club and was active in the Boeing Seahorses scuba diving club where Herb was President.

Anne Leake has been an active member of our post auxiliary and has played Santa Claus for our Christmas parties. Her father used to play Santa Claus for many years.

In November 2016, Bill Griffith, Post 3063 Chaplain, organized a remembrance to honor all the WWII Veterans in our Post. Herb attended the celebration.

We will all miss Herb and greatly appreciate his service in World War II. We extend our sincerest sympathies to Anne and her family. **A Celebration of Life will be held April 8, 2018, 1-3 p.m. at the Museum of Flight, 9404 E. Marginal Way. Internment of ashes will be April 9, 2018 at Acacia Memorial Park and Funeral Home, Lake Forest Park.**



Herb and Anne Leake at a post holiday social.



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## **Upcoming Events**

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

**January 4, 2018, 7 p.m.** - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting

**January 17, 2018, 6:30 p.m.** - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner, menu TBD, \$5 donation

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

*Social dinners are free for members who have birthdays in the same month.*



Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063 is located in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle at 2812 NW Market St. The office is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m.