

From the Commander



Comrades:

2018 was another busy year for Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063.

We've logged over 800 hours of community service, we supported our adopted unit's holiday party and had our post's Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year candidates win at the district level. These are just a few examples of the long list of accomplishments in 2018. I'd like to thank all of the post and auxiliary members and leaders who helped make this a

successful and productive year.

Behind the scenes in 2018, the leadership team and House Committee dedicated countless hours evaluating many aspects of our operations and looked for ways to improve how we conduct business at the post. We've been focusing on budget balancing, modernizing, optimizing and digitizing some of our processes and paperwork, as well as working closely with our architect consultants to complete the comprehensive assessment of our facility. I'm confident that when we complete this work, our future leadership teams will be equipped with valuable data and tools that will help them make more informed, data-driven decisions. While I acknowledge this work has taken some of our focus away from all of our other programs this year, I believe this effort has been necessary to ensure the long-term stability and survival of our growing community.

For those who may not already know, my wife Clare and I are expecting our first child in January, which will likely leave me with very little free time for the next few months. As such, most business meetings in the new year will be led by Sr. Vice Commander Joe Tiffany and Jr. Vice Commander Joe Fitzgerald.

On behalf of the Post 3063 leadership team, I'd like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commander Pete Krawitz

Inside this issue:

Quartermaster's Update **2**

Wreaths Across America **3**

Post Holiday Party **4**

Letters to Veterans **5**

New Service Officer **6**

Trick 'or' Treat **7**

Event Calendar **8**

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: Dan Stokke

Chaplain: Bill Griffith

Surgeon: Tiffany Cavin

Officer of the Day: Anthony Rose

3-Year Trustee: Jon Guncay

2-Year Trustee: Russ Seelig

1-Year Trustee: Aaron Stoltz

Service Officer: Leo Potts

Guard: Anthony Rose

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>

[vfwpost3063](http://www.vfwseattle.org)

Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



Halfway through our VFW year, it's time for a State of The Post post.

Officers and members are sustaining our meeting attendance at healthy levels. Commander Pete is using the round table format, joint public meeting with our Auxiliary prior to the regular business meeting, and good visual aids to make a lively and interesting meeting. If you haven't been to a meeting lately, come on in and join the excitement.

Kudos to our volunteer kitchen crew; Chef Kay, Linda, Jan, Jessica, Justin, Dan and others, who have delivered great spreads for the monthly socials. Can't forget those who faithfully come out for socials to enjoy gourmet meals and support our post.

Our post Honor Guard participated in several ceremonies, most recently providing honors and firing the rifle salute for the Wreaths Around America ceremony at Lakeview Cemetery, Dec. 15. Commander Joe Fitzgerald, Drill Captain

Anthony, along with expert riflemen Dan, Bill, Tiffany and Norm, put on impressive ceremonies, no matter the occasion.

We have been working hard on membership. At the time of this writing we made it to 100% of last year's numbers.

Our Voice of Democracy winner, Kate, won the District 2 competition and advances to the state level. Our Middle School Teacher of the Year winner, Dan, also won at District level and moves up to the state competition. If you know a student from 5th grade through high school, please encourage them to enter one of the three levels of competition. If you know of teachers who go above and beyond, please consider nominating them.

We've hired an architectural/construction firm to assess the current state of our property and present us with recommendations for updating or remodeling our building. They are making good progress. Our Building Committee has toured similar venues and is developing strategic plans as we move forward.

There was a good fundraiser in September thanks

to many volunteers, especially the Seelig family. Proceeds went to our Post Relief Fund which allows us to aid deserving charities and help our own members.

In the past six months we've accepted over 75 unserviceable American flags for proper disposal. Several people have told me how relieved they are to have found a way to properly dispose of their unserviceable flags and thanked our post members for performing this vital service.

We held one secure shredding party this year and have another scheduled for 8:30 am to 10:30 am, Jan. 21. Please bring your documents and encourage your friends and neighbors to come, in return for a donation to defray the cost of this truck.

Bottom line, our post is thriving, more events are happening, and officers and members are working on strategies for future development and growth. Thanks to each of you for being a member and supporting our veterans, their families and our community.

Wreaths Across America Brings Comrades Together

Comrades Joe Fitzgerald, Jon Guncay, Harold Rodenberger, Anthony Rose and Dan Stokke participated in the Wreaths Across America Memorial Service at Lakeview Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 15. WAA coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 1,400 locations across the United States, at sea and abroad.



Post Donates Money, Gift Cards to Adopted Guard Unit

Post 3063 Comrades visited their adopted unit -- the 181st Brigade Support Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Washington National Guard -- holiday party at JBLM Dec. 2. The post donated 26 \$25 gift cards for E-4 and below, plus \$650 (includes \$400 grant from National Veterans of Foreign Wars). The 181st's armory is located across the ship canal in Interbay and we're planning ways to further support them in the future!



Pictured here left to right are Adopted Unit Committee Chairman John Hogle, 181 BSB HHC 1SG Britt Anderson, Adjutant Aly Teeter and Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger.

Post Members, Family, and Friends Celebrate the Holidays

Thank you to everyone who helped celebrate the holidays with Post 3063 at the post's annual holiday party Dec. 13. Special thanks goes out to **Anne Leake**, our lovely Santa Claus, **Top of the Hill Barbershop Quartet** for the holiday tunes, **Chef Kay** and crew for the wonderful food, **Comrade Mamallo** for the Christmas photos, and the many others who contributed to the merry event.



Teacher of the Year and VOD Nominees Place First in District 2

Hamilton International Middle School Teacher Daniel Waldschmidt was nominated by Post 3063 as Teacher of the Year and placed first at District 2. He'll go on to compete at the state level, which will be announced during January's Mid-Winter Conference in Yakima.

Kate Cavanaugh, a senior at Holy Names Academy, is our Voice of Democracy winner. Kate read her essay during the December business meeting and received a standing ovation. Kate also placed first at District 2 and will go on to compete at the state level. She will read her essay again at the Mid-Winter Conference.

Congratulations and good luck to Daniel and Kate, and thank you for their support to veterans!

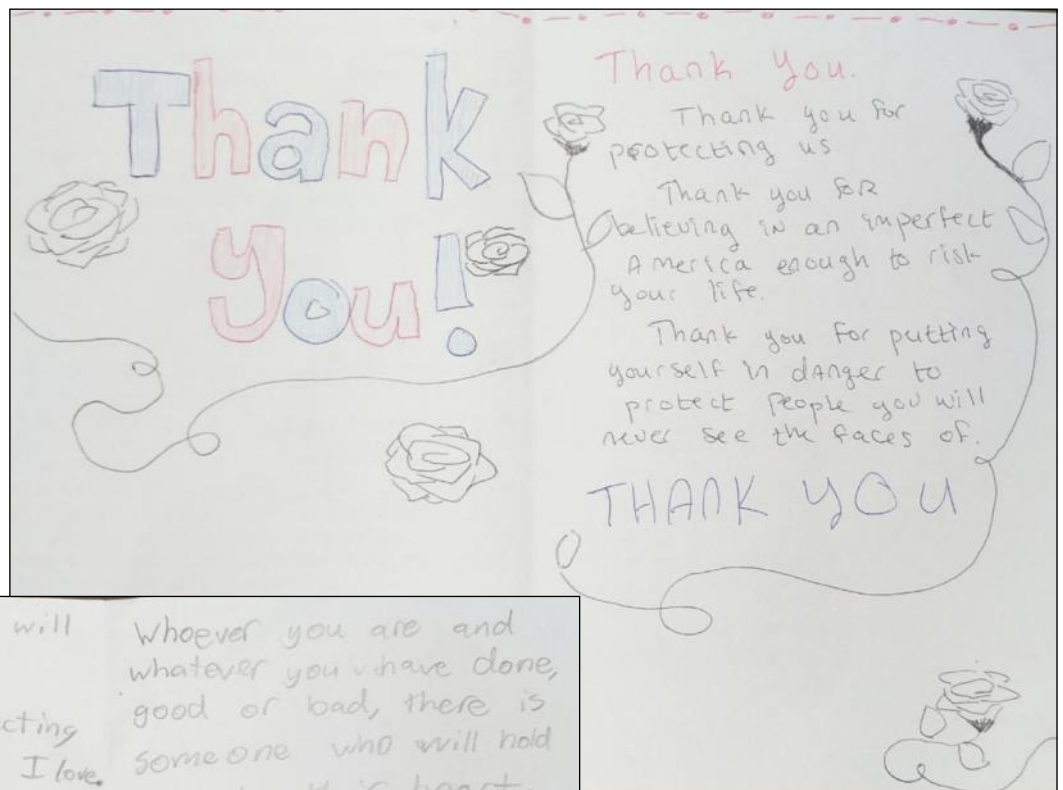


Above: Commander Krawitz presents a certificate to Kate at the December Business Meeting. Right: Sr. Vice Fitzgerald presents a certificate to Daniel during the holiday party.

Hamilton Middle School Students Write Letters to Veterans

For the past few years the post has received a stack of Veterans Day thank you notes from students at Hamilton International Middle School in Wallingford. It's really heart warming to read them and realize how insightful these kids are at such young ages. Thank you to Teacher Daniel Waldschmidt for leading this effort.

Here are a couple that were pulled from the stack; enjoy!



To the Veteran/s who will read this card,

Thank you for protecting me and everything I love. And if you are down on your luck or having a bad day then know that there is someone who appreciates you for everything you have done. If you did something you regret know that there is only the future for you and don't make the same mistake.

Whoever you are and whatever you've done, good or bad, there is someone who will hold you in their heart. Even though teenagers may be rude sometimes, we all are extremely grateful for everything you have done for us, for complete strangers, you have risked your life for us, that is the bravest thing anyone can possibly do.

Thank you

Meet Your New Service Officer: Comrade Leo Potts

By Leo Potts

Hello comrades, I am your new Post 3063 Service Officer I am here to educate and inform veterans about their benefits, assist them in requesting military records and submitting applications for benefits.

I can help you request military records and obtain and complete the correct forms for submission to the VA. Claims are submitted by accredited VSOs located on the 10th floor of the Jackson Federal building at 915 2nd Avenue, Seattle. The VSOs at the VFW can submit a claim to the VA. An accredited VSO will review and submit the claim, and make sure it is well documented and that you have a fully developed claim. This ensures that your packet is not returned for minor things such as missing or incomplete form or missing documents. They can also track your claim once it is submitted to the VA.

An important part of submitting a claim, especially for a service connected disability claim, is having all the required documentation prior to meeting with the service officer. Do you have a copy of your discharge papers from the service (DD 214)



Service Officer Leo Potts

and your medical records from military service (which may document a service connected injury)? Do you have civilian medical records from your physician or other civilian medical professionals that further supports a service connected injury or illness?

Military discharge papers, personnel and medical records can be requested online by going to the VA website (<http://www.va.gov>) and completing an SF 180. Depending on your branch of service and when you served will determine where you send the request. If you do not have your discharge papers, do not procrastinate in getting a copy of it because it provides proof of eligibility for your veteran's benefits.

It may seem overwhelming to file a claim or you may think you are not eligible for any benefits but it is important to discuss this with a service officer and get their assistance in filing a fully developed claim. The VA must then do their due diligence to determine the eligibility of the claim. The claim process can take months but it may be worth your time.

If you ever need assistance, please contact me at serviceofficer@vfwseattle.org.

Thank You For Your Service

Thank you Comrade Gail Engler, seen here receiving a certificate of appreciation from Commander Krawitz at the October Business Meeting, for all of your work over the past three years as the Post 3063 Veteran Service Officer. Numerous veterans were helped due to Service Officer Engler's work. It isn't an easy job and it takes a tremendous amount of time and dedication.



Post Members Give Tricks or Treats to Ballardites



We had big candy bars and magic tricks during Trick-Or-Treat Ballard on Halloween, Oct. 31, 2018. One could argue we had the best candy selection in Ballard. Thanks to everyone who volunteered or donated candy to the cause!



New Member Spotlight

Malcolm G. McCormick, U.S.
Army, German Occupation

Martin Pate, USMC, Iraq

Heather Stiles, U.S. Army, Af-
ghanistan

Robert "Wayne" Yerkes, U.S.
Navy, Vietnam

Happy New Year: Let's Shred!



A shredder truck will be in the post parking lot **Jan. 21, 8:30 am to 10:30 am**. Please bring your documents and encourage your friends and neighbors to come, in return for a donation to defray the cost of this truck. Note: the truck can remove staples and paperclips but not other miscellaneous metal or plastic.

Upcoming Events

January 3, 2019, 6 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Auxiliary Business Meeting.

January 3, 2019, 7 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting. Food is served at 6 p.m. If you plan to attend and have new business to discuss, please submit your agenda item at <https://goo.gl/ww8kk4>.

January 17, 2019, 6:30 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner. Open to post and auxiliary members, families, friends, and the community. \$5 suggested donation.

January 21, 2019, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Document shredding in post parking lot. Free to members, friends and families; donations accepted.

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. Additional events are listed at <http://vfwseattle.org/index.php/resources/event-calendar/>.



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 1-5 p.m.

We're on the web and Facebook! <http://www.vfwseattle.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost3063>



Ballard Eagleson Patriot
VFW Post 3063
2812 NW Market St.
Seattle, WA 98107
206-782-8618

