

From the Commander



Comrades,

I know you haven't seen much of me over the last few months. I have a good excuse for my absence. I'm delighted and proud to report that Clare and I welcomed our first child (Evelyn Isla Krawitz) into the world on the 23rd of January. Clare and I soon learned that this baby runs our life now. Baby Evelyn is skilled at eating, sleeping, filling diapers and distorting the space-time continuum... Lately, I haven't been able to figure out what day of the week it is... I'm still having a hard time believing it's already April...

A big thanks to Sr Vice Commander Joe Tiffany and Jr Vice Commander Joe Fitzgerald for leading the post meetings while I've been away. The leadership team has been keeping me updated via phone and email on the latest and greatest. It's been wonderful to see some new activities and events taking place at the post. One such event was the recent "Shamrock and Shenanigans" on St. Patrick's day. I hope that we continue to have volunteers step up and coordinate similar activities in the future.

I'd also like to congratulate the post on reaching 100% membership for the year. At the time of writing, the database shows our post at 108%. Once again, our top recruiter was Comrade Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger. Thank you, Harold and all of the other recruiters who brought new members into our post this year.

Lately, the demands from my career and family have increased exponentially, leaving very little time for other activities, including VFW work. However, I do intend to finish out this term as your commander as there is still some work I plan to complete. One such project I need to see through is the Post 3063 Renewal Study. The house committee and consultants have worked very hard on this project over the last few months, and it's nearing completion. With that, expect to see me at the Post business meetings once again over the next few months.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at our April business meeting.

Yours in Comradeship,

-Pete

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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: 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

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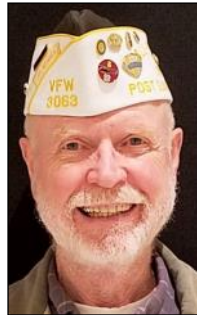
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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



Change is in the air. Spring began last month.

The days are longer and warmer. Pollen counts are up and the birds are busy building nests.

Spring is bringing changes here at your post also.

Our commander is having to devote more time to family with their newborn first child. With that, a demanding work schedule and commute times, he has asked our Senior Vice Commander Joe Tiffany, and Junior Vice Commander, Joe Fitzgerald, to assume to leadership roles at post meetings. Pete is continuing to participate via electronic means.

I'm pleased to report that our membership is changing too. First, we have thirteen more members now than what we ended with last year. That brings us to 108.3% of our goal. To me it's

even more important than we have more younger members. Last time I checked our roster the median age of our members has gone down to 68 years old. That means half our members are less than 68. We have 36 members under the age of forty. When we take into consideration the fact that our youngest member is 25, with the next youngest 28, it shows we are attracting a good number of younger veterans.

We are also making good progress on our remodel investigations. The architectural firm has completed their concept sketches for the three levels of remodel. They have also consulted with the City to determine what can be done at each level to get the best return on our investment without triggering massive code upgrades. We are still waiting for the final presentation which will lay out cost estimates for each of the options, including the fourth option of sale or demo/rebuild.

Meanwhile, we have had an assessment for hazardous materials to show us what needs to be done in that area. Over the years we have had problems with the sewer so we had a company run a camera through the lines to determine what needs to be done to improve that drainage.

Once we get the final options and cost estimates from the architectural firm, we will bring the package to our members for their input, full discussion and decision. That part also will take time so hopefully we can begin the process in the next few weeks.

Meanwhile, get out there and enjoy the spring weather. And keep an eye out for potential new members for our post. As we grow and expand into new activities to benefit veterans in our post and community, we'll need more volunteers and members to help accomplish our mission.

Building Update: Architect Review Nearing Completion

By Pete Krawitz and Harold Rodenberger

If you refer to the 2018 Q4 newsletter, you'll recall that the post membership voted to work with consultants from a local architect firm to review the current state of our building. While there have been a few minor updates in the subsequent newsletters, Comrade Quartermaster Rodenberger and I wanted to provide the post members with a more comprehensive update on the current state of this project, which is getting closer to completion.

First off, we'd like to thank the house committee for their hard work (Doug Maines, Jordan Houghton, and Aly Teeter-Baker). These individuals dedicated many additional hours of their free time over the last few months to help see this project through. These individuals have acted as a critical advisory and steering committee for our hired consultants.

During this period, the house committee has monitored the development of four tentative options, ranging from minor, mostly cosmetic improvements to sale or redevelopment of the property.

As these options have been fleshed out, we've visited venues in central and north Seattle to see how other owners manage meeting halls and rental spaces. At the same time, a focus group composed of house committee members plus some volunteers from our post and auxiliary have met with the architects to furnish input and give feedback to help them aim the options toward our goals as a growing and modern VFW post.

To aid with planning we met with the city planners

for guidance on how an old building such as ours can be updated to meet current usage and code yet meet fiscal constraints. We've also had a hazardous materials survey done to find out what we don't know about the existence of asbestos, lead and other toxic materials in some of the old building materials.

Finally, the architects will provide us with some "rough order of magnitude" estimates for the costs of the various options.

Once the consultant's work is completed, what's next? Well, we know this will help us answer three questions that have been a central theme during our work with the consultants:

How can Post 3063 maintain a physical presence in Ballard so that we can continue to serve veterans, their families, and the community?

How can we reduce and/or eliminate any risks associated with failing building systems?

How can we reduce ongoing building operating cost AND increase rental income?

Bottom line, we don't know exactly what the "how" will look like just yet. There is still a lot of discussion and analysis that needs to take place within our post, however, we are confident that our current and future members and leadership teams will be equipped with information that will allow us to be more proactive rather than reactive about our building's future.

We look forward to providing you with additional updates in the coming months.



106 Year-Old Member Answers Final Roll Call

By Harold Rodenberger

On Friday, February 8, 2019, four members of our Ballard Eagleson Honor Guard team attended the interment service for Comrade Joseph Small, who was 106 years old when he died.

It was snowing while we were waiting for the service to start and I found myself thinking about the changes Joe saw during his lifetime. He was born September 17, 1912, when William Taft was president and he would have been five years old when America entered WWI. When he was a teenager he could have heard first-hand memories from those who lived through the Civil War.

Comrade Small saw major changes during his life. From horse powered transportation and farming to the internal combustion engine to self-driving cars, from the first airplanes to jet power and men landing on the moon, and from wall mounted telephones to the cell phones of today. He would have been fifteen years old when the first "talkie" feature film was made and speaking of film, he saw the transition from primitive cameras to sophisticated SLR cameras to filmless cameras small enough to fit in his cell phone.

Joe lived through prohibition and saw women's suffrage become law in 1920. He mailed first class letters for two cents in 1919 and 55 cents last month. He



Post 3063 Honor Guard members (left to right) Anthony Rose, Bill Griffith, Joe Fitzgerald and Harold Rodenberger attended Comrade Smalls interment service Feb. 8, 2019.

wore clothes made exclusively from natural fibers when he was young and those containing lots of man-made fibers later in his life. These and many other changes Comrade Small lived through during his 106 years on this rapidly changing planet.

As I was thinking about these changes, the snow began to fall harder. The USAF funeral detail folded his flag and played Taps with their hats turned white by the snow. Somehow it seemed fitting for Comrade Small, who had fought in snow storms during the Battle of The Bulge in the winter of 1944-45, to be laid to rest in another snow storm seventy-four years later.

Post Represents at County's Combined Arms Summit

The King County Veterans Consortium held a Combined Arms Summit Jan. 28, 2019. Post 3063 was represented by Comrades Robert Kettle and Leo Potts with post comrades Jordan Houghton and Joey Hernandez attending as well by representing Williams C. Stacy American Legion Post 206. The summit aimed to, "empower our veteran ecosystem with unity of purpose and direction for the benefit of service members, veterans, and their families." There were many great lessons learned to bring back to the post. See more at <https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost3063/posts/979688358892567>.



Post Members Build Community, Raise Money with Stew & Music

Comrades Potts and Tiffany organized and held two fundraisers at the post Mar. 16, 2019. The first fundraiser was an Irish stew feast that included game hunted by Potts in Texas. Chef Kay and her team of volunteers cooked the stew and fixings. Proceeds from the stew feast were to benefit a group of veterans traveling to Washington, D.C. in May.

The second fundraiser, aptly called Shamrocks & Shenanigans, featured three bands. Proceeds from the concerts benefited Post 3063's Relief Fund, which benefits a variety of causes for local veterans in need.

Overall the events were a success not only for raising money, but bringing members of the community together for a couple of good causes.



From left to right: Comrade Tiffany's friend put together an awesome flyer for the event. Comrade Potts, the organizer for the stew feast, preps food in the kitchen. Post supporters listen to one of the bands and enjoy eating stew.

Lending a Helping Hand

Post members delivered more than \$3K worth of gift cards to the U.S. Coast Guard Station Seattle Jan. 25, 2019. Chief Warrant Officer Dan Faivre with the Coast Guard Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association accepted the gift cards from Comrades Alyson Teeter, Doug Maines, Bob Kettle, and Harold Rodenberger (not pictured). Even though the shutdown was temporarily halted that day, Coast Guardsmen would go a week without their paychecks so the gift cards still helped bridge the gap to the next paycheck.



Auxiliary President's Update

By Donna Limric

I would like to introduce myself as the current President of the Auxiliary to Ballard-Eagleson V.F.W. Post #3063. We have a new slate of officers: Senior Vice President Margo Clutter, Treasurer Liz Guncay, and Secretary Suzanne Potts.

With your help we can do many things to help our veterans and our community. We have vets in Seattle that are living on the streets, vets in hospitals who need diversion and fun times. Each May our post hosts a Bingo game for patients at the Puget Sound VA hospital. National Home needs financial support. Here is the link to to find other programs that need support: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/>.

Most importantly we need members to step up and participate. Did you notice the word 'Ladies' is missing from our name? Two years ago the membership requirement

changed so we now accept men into the Auxiliary with the same eligibility as women. Sons, brothers, fathers, grandfathers, and husbands of eligible veterans are now welcome into the Auxiliary. Do know someone who is a spouse, widow, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild or sibling of someone who served their country during a foreign conflict? Just ask, it can't hurt.

We want individuals who are interested in participating in our National and Local Programs: Hospital, Americanism, Community Service, Legislative, Publicity, Scholarship, Sunshine and Youth Activities.

If you know anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the VFW Auxiliary, please forward my contact information to them. If you are a member who has not been active in a while, please come see the

new and exciting plans that will revitalize this organization. In May we intend to have an open house and book sale during Ballard Nordic days.

The first Thursday of each month is our Auxiliary business meeting at 7:00 pm. Please come learn about the exciting new changes and plans we are making to continue the good work of support for our veterans and our community. We strive to keep the business to under an hour.

I would like to invite you all to come join the 3rd Thursday of each month for the VFW social.

Please contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached by phone at 206-852-5434 or e-mail at auxiliary@vfwseattle.org. You may send mail to 2812 NW Market St, Seattle, WA 98107.

Mid-Winter Conference 2019 Recap

By Harold Rodenberger

Our Mid-Winter Conference was held in Yakima this year on January 11th and 12th. Representing our post were Sr Vice Commander Joe Tiffany, Jr Vice Joe Fitzgerald, Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger, Service Office Leo Potts, Surgeon Tiffany Cavin, Officer of the Day Anthony Rose and Past Commander Nestor Tamayao.

On Saturday, there was training for Quartermasters and Service Officers along with the regular business meeting.

One highlight of the conference was the presentation of certificates and \$100 checks to those posts achieving 100 per cent membership by December 31, 2018. I was proud to see our post represented in this small group.

Another highlight was the awards banquet featuring winners of the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Youth Essay contests. Entrants from our post didn't win at the state level but our Teacher of the year and VOD entries both won at the District level.

Post Meets, Exceeds 100% Membership Again



Comrades Rodenburger and Tiffany accept the state VFW citation and banner Feb. 7, 2019 in special recognition of Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063's outstanding achievement in exceeding 100% membership!

New Member Spotlight

Robert Berntsen
U.S. Army, Korea

Joseph Mesa
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Robert Coltran
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Kurtis Reed
U.S. Navy, Expeditionary

Joshua Edwards
U.S. Navy, Expeditionary

Dakota Sherry
U.S. Army, Afghanistan

Jeffrey Spreen
U.S. Coast Guard, Danger Pay

Yoga is Back at the Post

Our friends at the Veterans Yoga Project will begin teaching yoga at the post **every Thursday at 10 a.m. starting April 4**. No prior experience is required and you don't need any equipment; just be sure to wear comfortable clothing!



Remembering Our Namesake: Lt Eagleson

Courtesy of the University of Washington History of Science and Medicine

One hundred years ago on February 19, 1919, Lt. James Mills Eagleson died of influenza just one day after having arrived at Newport News, Virginia, aboard the U.S.S. Mercury with members of the 69th Coast Artillery Corps. The son of prominent and well-connected members of Seattle society, Dr. James Beatty Eagleson and his wife Blanche Mills – they worked to establish a building on the University of Washington campus in their son's honor.



Lt. James Eagleson

James Sims Eagleson, Lt. Eagleson's son, who he never met, was on hand for the building's groundbreaking on Graduation Day, 1922, for what would become the campus chapter of the YMCA. Later the Bebb and Gould-designed building would become a regular part of the campus. Read more about James Eagleson at <https://www.facebook.com/uwlibscimed/posts/696495093858841>.

Upcoming Events

April 4, 2019, 10 a.m. - Yoga with the Veterans Yoga Project. Weekly Thursdays at 10 a.m. at the post.

April 4, 2019, 6 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Auxiliary Business Meeting.

April 4, 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>.

April 18, 2019, 6:30 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner. Open to post and auxiliary members, families, friends, and the community. \$5 suggested donation.

April 13, 2019, 10 a.m. - Run as One event with Teams Rubicon and RWB and Mission Continues at Green Lake. More info at kcvv.org.

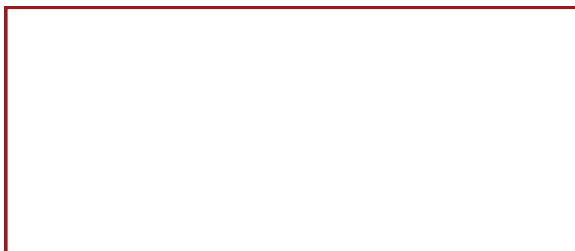
April 13, 2019, 5 p.m. - District 2 Dinner Fundraiser, Tickets \$15, Rainier VFW Post 2289, 6038 S Pilgrim St, Seattle, WA 98118.

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>



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