

From the Commander



Comrades,

Since becoming Commander, we have had a busy start to the "VFW year."

Our time has been occupied by the Department (State) Convention in Vancouver, WA, the National Convention in Orlando, Florida, District Two (our district) meetings, and last but not least, the amazing fifth annual Spaghetti Fundraiser co-chaired by Russ and Kay Seelig.

The conventions are an amazing way to learn about the VFW and what we do, and the district meetings keep us in the loop on what is happening locally.

This year, like years in the past, the Spaghetti Dinner was amazing and I am so thankful to Russ, Kay and their crew for putting on this great event!

What I have learned so far is the amount of time our fellow comrades spend to pull all these events together and make our post look good. We, by definition are an organization of volunteerism and we are doing good, however there is always room to improve!

My goal is to get more people involved in volunteering and planning fundraisers and fun events to make our VFW one we can all be proud of. If you have ideas or want to jump in and volunteer, please reach out to me or any of our leadership for opportunities.

- *Commander Joe Tiffany*

Inside this issue:

Quartermaster's Update	2
Fundraiser Recap	3
In Memoriam	4
Flu Shots	5
New Member Spotlight	6
Around the Post	7
Event Calendar	8

WANTED: Volunteers for VAMC Visit

Post 3063 members are encouraged to participate in a visit to the Seattle VA Medical Center on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The visit will include passing out snacks to veteran patients and partaking in good conversation.

The meeting time is TBD. Volunteers will meet at the hospital's emergency room entrance and the VAMC is located at 1660 South Columbian Way, Seattle 98108. If you're interested in participating, contact Commander Tiffany at 206-619-9521, Quartermaster Rodenberger at 206-972-2135, or email adjutant@vfwseattle.org.

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: Joe Tiffany

Sr Vice Commander: Joe Fitzgerald

Jr Vice Commander: Bryce White

Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger

Adjutant: Alyson Teeter

Judge Advocate: Dan Stokke

Chaplain: Aaron Stoltz

Surgeon: Tiffany Cavin

Officer of the Day: Vacant

3-Year Trustee: Nestor Tamayao

2-Year Trustee: Dan Stokke

1-Year Trustee: Russ Seelig

Service Officer: Joseph Mesa

Guard: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Alyson Teeter

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We're on the web and Facebook!

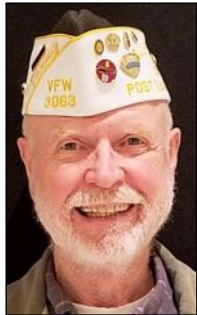
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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



The Autumn equinox was a few days ago on September 23rd.

The days are getting shorter and school kids have returned to their classes. Please drive carefully, especially around our schools with their precious, but sometimes preoccupied or inattentive, children.

Our Service Officer, Joseph Mesa, had to return to California to handle some urgent family affairs so has been dealing by telephone and mail with veterans seeking help with their claims. When ready, the veteran brings them in and we fax them to our Department VSO for review and transmittal to the VA. Being involved with this process has reminded me of the importance of all eligible veterans going to the VA Hospital to get their names and medical conditions on the Agent

Orange or Burn Pit Registries.

Speaking of the VA Hospital, in another month we will be making our Veterans Day visit to the patients. If you have old copies of magazines from the VFW, or other veterans organizations, please bring them to the office so our ambassadors of goodwill can take them to pass out to interested patients.

Our new VFW year started in July. As happens every year, we lost members due to deaths, lapses in membership and other causes. Our state headquarters has offered a substantial monetary prize if we can reach 100% membership by December 31st. Please look for potential new members; they plus renewals are the lifeblood of our organization. The VFW National Headquarters doesn't count annual members until they pay their dues. **If your membership lapses this year, or before July 1st next year,**

please consider paying your dues before December 20th so we have a chance to win the membership prize. Some people think that if they renew early they might lose the time between then and their regular renewal day. Not to worry, your membership year will remain the same, it just helps us get to that magic number sooner. Thank you for helping us win.

Two raffle prizes came in after the fund raiser. At the social on October 17th we will raffle off an autographed Seahawks football and eight rounds of mini-golf at InterBay golf course. Please attend the social for a chance to win.

If you are interested in passing out poppies or helping during our visit to the VA Hospital on Veterans Day, please let Commander Tiffany, 206-619-9521, or myself (206-972-2135) know so we can get you on the schedule.

Annual Fundraiser Yet Again an Outstanding Success

By Alyson Teeter

VFW Post 3063 hosted its Annual Spaghetti Fundraiser and Raffle Sept. 14, 2019. The annual tradition, which has been held at the post hall for a number of years, brought in \$6,264.20: an increase of nearly \$500 from 2018!

The net proceeds will be deposited in the Post Relief Fund, which benefits a variety of causes, from local



The post hall was full of family and friends enjoying each other's company.

veterans in need – including those at the Seattle VA hospital – to the VFW's National Home for Children.

As in past years, the hall was jam packed with comrades, family members, and friends due in large part to the Seelig family.

Comrade Russ Seelig, Chef Kay Seelig, and their family performed a bulk of

the work, from organizing the raffle to cooking the food. Their dedication was obvious by looking at the quality of raffle items, the large turnout, the taste of the food, and the camaraderie felt by all.

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



A sampling of the raffle prizes.

National Convention Wrap-up

By Harold Rodenberger

The Veterans of Foreign Wars held its 120th National Convention in Orlando, Florida this year. Elected representatives from posts and departments attend these national conventions each year and when in session, the convention is the governing body of our organization.

Three members from our post attended this year; Sr Vice Joe Tiffany, representing Commander Pete Krawitz; Jr Vice Joe Fitzgerald and Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger. We participated in the business sessions, attended special classes of interest to post leadership, caucused with other representatives from our state and voted on proposed changes to our VFW Bylaws and Ritual.

In other sessions, awards are presented to special dignitaries, winners of the VFW Youth programs such as Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy are presented with their scholarship checks, All-American Commanders are given their awards and various speakers pass their wisdom to our eager ears. This year Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert Wilkie, updated the convention on news of interest from their departments.

To wrap up the convention, we elected and installed national officers for the ensuing year. It is always a busy four days and necessary for the continued functioning of our organization.

In Memoriam: Remembering Bob Drew

By Harold Rodenberger

I never had a chance to speak with Bob Drew. He was an old man when he joined our post. Those who did meet him were impressed with his quiet demeanor and presence of mind. Many of those who knew Bob weren't aware of his background. He was just another old man who didn't ask for any special attention or help. He was part of The Greatest Generation and like a lot of old people in our society, he flew under the radar living a quiet life in his old age.

But, when he was younger, what a full life he led!

During WWII he was a fighter pilot flying P-38's and P-51's in the Pacific Theater. After the war he joined the California National Guard and went to work for Douglas Aircraft as a test pilot, flying the Navy AD Skyraider and F4D Skyray. Working with Douglas until 1962 he flew all manner of fighters, single and multi-engine military and commercial aircraft and anything



else that took off. During his test pilot days he flew with future astronauts Alan Shepard and Deke Slayton and other famous test pilots. Since he was attracted to speed, he also flew Formula One pylon racers from 1953 to 1993.

In 2000, Bob became a docent for the Museum of Flight. If you happened to have him as a guide while visiting the museum you were in for great guided tour since he had flown many of the planes on display. You can read an article on Bob's days at the Museum in our May 2017 newsletter at <http://vfwwseattle.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/May-2017.pdf>.

We draped our charter to remember Bob at our meeting held on July 11, 2019, and it remained draped in his honor for thirty days.

Robert E. Drew, WWII fighter pilot, supersonic test pilot, friend of astronauts, Formula One Pylon Racer, museum docent and member of our post, has made his last flight.

Youth Essay Entries Due October 31

Are you looking for some money for college? Are you a thinker and have good opinions? Do you like to write? The VFW has a program for you!

High school students can enter the Voice of Democracy contest. Here's a link to the rules and entry form: <https://bit.ly/2IJIE0g>.

Middle school students can enter the Patriot's Pen contest. Here's the link to the rules and entry form: <https://bit.ly/2mKrezW>.

Elementary students in grades 3, 4 & 5 are encouraged to enter the special Youth Essay program run by the Washington Department, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Here's the link to the rules and entry form: <https://vfwwa.org/uploads/YouthEssayEntryForm.pdf>.

Grab your chosen writing device and get your opinion out there for all to read. You might win the big prize, but you can't win if you don't enter. GOOD LUCK!

It's That Time of Year Again: Get Your Flu Shot

Courtesy of VA.gov

During flu season, protecting your health with a flu shot is easier than ever – and as close as your local VA or neighborhood Walgreens! VA and Walgreens care about your health and are partnering to offer enrolled Veteran patients easy access to flu shots.

VA and Walgreens are national partners, providing no-cost quadrivalent flu shots to enrolled Veterans of the VA health care system. During the program, which runs from August 15, 2019 through March 31, 2020, enrolled Veteran patients nationwide have the option of getting their flu shot at any of Walgreens' 9,600 locations in addition to their local VA health care facilities. No appointment is required; simply go to any Walgreens, tell the pharmacist you receive care at a VA facility, and show your Veterans Health Identification Card and another form of photo ID.

Your immunization record will be updated electronically in your VA electronic health record. Walgreens

has the capability to electronically send vaccination information to the VA electronic health record. The VA-Walgreens national partnership is part of VA's

eHealth Exchange project. This national program ensured that many Veterans got their no-cost flu shot at their local Walgreens, satisfying their wellness reminder because they either found it more convenient or did not have a scheduled appointment at a local VA health care facility.



Armed Forces License Plates Available at the Dept. of Licensing

Courtesy of DVA.WA.gov

The Washington Department of Licensing issues license plates to eligible veterans/military/family members with six separate designs, each containing a symbol representing a different branch of the armed forces to include Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and WA National Guard.

Purchasers also receive a decal indicating their military status, to include: Veteran, Retired, Active Duty, Reserves, Disabled Veteran, Army Guard, Air Guard, Army Retired (for Army National Guard Retirees), Air Retired (for Air National Guard Retirees), Fallen Hero (This decal would be available for an eligible family member of a

military member killed in action), Family, Gold Star (A separate Gold Star License Plate is also available to certain family members.)

Visit <http://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/spmilitary.html> for information on initial and renewal plate fees. \$28 from the purchase and renewal of each plate is directed to the Veterans Stewardship Account and is tax deductible.

The Veterans Stewardship Account is used for activities that benefit veterans, such as maintaining the state veteran's cemetery in eastern Washington and providing programs and services for homeless veterans.



New Member Spotlight: Cole Russell

This is a recurring column that highlights new VFW Post 3063 members. Comrade Cole Russell joined the post in May 2019.

What motivated you to join the VFW?

Giving back to the local community while also working with a respected national organization. It's essentially the best of both worlds and enables its members to have an impact in both realms. That and enjoying the camaraderie of fellow veterans of different backgrounds and generations.

What is your military background?

- University of Portland ROTC 2002-2007
- 12 years Active Duty USAF, Flight Test Engineer, 2007-2019, stationed in Eglin AFB, FL; Nellis AFB, NV; Edwards AFB, CA, and McChord AFB, WA.
- Washington Air National Guard, 194th Wing at Camp Murray, Cyber Officer, 2019+

Civilian job, education, family, hobbies, or anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

Civilian job: Amazon Web Services MVP Team sup-

porting Government Contracts

Family: Mom and Dad in Bellevue, Wife (Carmin), Dog (Theo), Cat (Mr. Bigglesworth)

Hobbies: Mountain climbing (did Baker earlier this year, Rainier last year, Mt. Kilimanjaro the year before), Snowboarding, Crossfit, Yoga, and local breweries.



Photo by Michael Patrick Ronan

What do you hope to achieve being a member of the VFW?

I hope to use the skills I have learned in the military, my current position in the ANG, and Amazon Warriors (internal military group), to facilitate as much local outreach and veteran support as possible in the Seattle community.

Post 3063 New Members

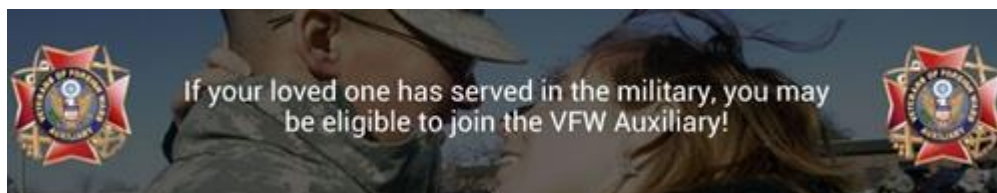
Donald Ball
Army, Vietnam

David Beattie
Army, Vietnam

Edward Drain
Army, Afghanistan

Kyle Hiatt
Army, Iraq

James Niblack
Army, Vietnam



What's Happening In and Around the Post



Comrades represented the post during the Ballard Seafood Festival July 13-14. They offered Buddy Poppies, membership info, and VA resources to attendees.



Comrade Griffith presented his friend Bill Wilson with the spoon he won at the post fundraiser. The spoon was made from aluminum that fell from the sky over Laos and Bill contributed to this collection until his F111 was shot down over Hanoi and he spent the rest of the war in prison.



New members Matt and Dave swear in during our business meeting Aug. 1.

AARP reps attended the Aug. 15 social and provided elder fraud info and gave out free materials to attendees.



Upcoming Events

October 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>.

October 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.

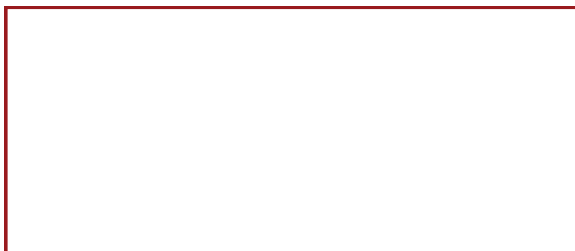
***Auxiliary meeting TBD.** Contact Donna Limric at auxiliary@vfwseattle.org for details.

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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