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From the Commander



Comrades,

I write to you during these uncertain times, to remind you that we specifically have lived through troubled times before. We made it through then and we will make it through now. We will rely on our comrades, our friends and our family. If you need help please reach out to the leadership of the post. My cell phone is 206-619-9521.

We are in this together and together is how we will move past this.

Our post has volunteers reaching out to members via phone, kind of like a welfare check. The members I spoke with were very happy to get a call. Hopefully this COVID-19 subsides soon and we can get back to regular business. Once we are back to meeting in person we will pick up where we left off.

Joe Tiffany

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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.

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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

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We're on the web and Facebook!

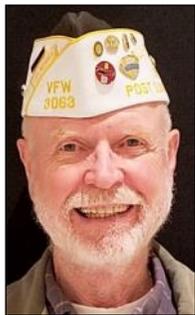
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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



In this update I'll deal first with the thing most on people's minds--

the Novel Coronavirus that has spread around the world. To help prevent the spread of the virus, we canceled our March business meeting and social. Going forward, in-person meetings and socials are canceled until further notice. We will have meetings via Zoom so we can conduct necessary business while maintaining health safeguards. During the April meeting, we will have final nominations and election of officers for the new VFW year. If you can, please join us via Zoom (details elsewhere in this newsletter).

One of the first casualties of the meeting cancellations was Justin Mamallo, who had already prepared a wonderful meal for our members when I reached him early Thursday afternoon and

broke the news that the meeting that night was cancelled. Justin made the best of a bad situation by providing food to his neighbors. Sorry for the late notice, Justin! Thanks for donating your dollars and time and for being so understanding.

Because of the isolation and uncertainty associated with the COVID-19 illness, we have been calling our members to make sure they are well and to offer help if needed. I have been impressed with the reaction to our calls. Many members and/or their points of contact have expressed gratitude for our attempts to make sure our members are well. If you would like to help make phone calls to our extended family of members, please contact our Adjutant, Aly Teeter, or myself.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our remote members for being part of our larger community. We have members in several states. More or less lo-

cally, we have members from Blaine to Vancouver and Grayland (near Westport) to Tri-Cities and Spokane. Here's a personal "Thank You" for being part of our post and following us via our newsletter, [Facebook](#) and [website](#). If you have comments or suggestions for our post leadership, please feel free to reach out to us by emailing adjutant@vfwseattle.org or quartermaster@vfwseattle.org.

I leave you with a quote from Section 230102 of our Congressional Charter: ***"The purpose of this corporation shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational: to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans..."***

Post 3063 Office Closed, Socials Cancelled Indefinitely

Effective immediately VFW Post 3063 open office hours on Thursdays and Saturdays are temporarily suspended until further notice.

Our regular monthly business meeting on April 2 will be conducted via teleconference

(details below). Socials are cancelled until further notice.

In case of emergency, members are invited to contact the Quartermaster, Harold Rodenberger, at 206-972-2135 or quartermaster@vfwseattle.org.

Zoom Meeting Details for April 2 Business Meeting

The post business meeting scheduled Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m. will be conducted via Zoom videoconference. **Here are the Zoom download and connection directions:**

- Go to <https://zoom.us/download> and select “Zoom Client for Meetings” to download Zoom for your computer or “Zoom Mobile Apps” to download Zoom for your phone.
- At 6:50 pm Thursday, April 2, click on this meeting link (or in the email sent out by Adjutant Teeter): <https://zoom.us/j/5057012075>.
- A new Zoom window will open and then, inside, another smaller window will open with a box that says, “Open Zoom meetings.” Click on that box to join the meeting.
- If a dialogue box appears that says “Join with computer audio” click on that.
- Once you have joined you will see all the other participants.
- Once the meeting starts, you will be able to hear the officers but all other participants will be muted.
- If you have a question or want to make a motion, etc., click on the small hand icon in the lower right part of the screen. A raised hand will appear on your picture and the commander or quartermaster will unmute and call on you. After you make your motion or ask your question you will be muted again.
- NOTE: If you are connecting on a desktop, laptop or tablet and have decent WiFi, you should have no problem. If you are connecting with a smartphone, you may have trouble seeing the video but should have no trouble hearing the audio.



If you want to participate in a test to make sure Zoom works for you, please send an email to Harold at quartermaster@vfwseattle.org.

For those who want to attend by phone and not the Zoom app, there is a call-in option. Here are the details:

- One tap mobile: +16699009128,,5057012075# (Allows you to go straight to the meeting without prompts.)
- Or Dial: +1 669 900 9128, follow prompts
- Meeting ID: 505 701 2075

Highlights From the Mid-Winter Convention

By Alyson Teeter

Members of Post 3063 traveled in the snow to attend the annual VFW Department of Washington Mid-Winter convention in Yakima Jan. 17-18, 2020.

Commander Joe Tiffany, Sr. Vice Commander Joe Fitzgerald, Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger and Adjutant Aly Teeter were in attendance and sat in on business meetings, breakout sessions, and a banquet that recognized the department-level essay winners and teacher and first responder award recipients.

Post 3063's Teacher of the Year, Dan Waldschmidt from Hamilton Middle School, won at the Department-level and his award was presented to the District 2 Commander, Carl Christophersen. According to the VFW, the VFW Teacher of the Year award contest recognizes exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students.

Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger accepted a recruiting award for the numerous new members he's brought into the post this year. Well done, Comrade Rodenberger!

The Voice of Democracy winner, Gabrielle DeMarco from Enumclaw High School (sponsored by VFW Post 1949) read her essay to the audience. She'll go on to compete at the national level and will attend the National Convention this summer.

Adjutant Teeter attended the membership breakout session and captured these highlights from the presentation and discussion:

– Heroes in the Ballpark is coming up April 24 in

Tacoma. They need donations.

– Community Service Reports: Necessary for non-profit status.

– Ideas for reporting: collect verbal reports at business meetings; display wall calendar in post and people can pencil in what they did.

– Post 3063 is now the largest post in District 2.

– We can also donate to local school/community projects; will help spread the word about our presence and involvement in the community. One post donated money to building a community playground.

– Invite local schools to have fundraisers at the post.

– Make the VFW fact sheet a placemat for fundraisers.



From left to right: Comrades Rodenberger, Fitzgerald, Teeter and Tiffany attended the Mid-Winter Convention.

RETENTION:

– Present opportunities to new members. Have 2 members dedicated to sitting down with newbies and explain how things work at the post.

– Give post t-shirts instead of caps to new members.

– Highlight VA benefit changes through newsletters, SM posts, etc.

RECRUITING:

– Boat shows, markets, fairs, etc. Always have a service officer present. Bring prospect forms so you can contact them again to join.

– Challenge post members to recruit at least 1 new member a year.

VFW Washington State Middle School Teacher of the Year



In January during our Department of Washington Mid-Winter Conference in Yakima, Dan Waldschmidt, our Ballard Eagleson middle school teacher of the year, was announced as the VFW Washington State Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Dan teaches Social Studies and History at Hamilton International Middle School. He received a \$1,000 check and is now competing for the VFW National Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Good Luck at National, Dan!

Post 3063 Responds to COVID-19

Comrades, these are hard times that require over-communication and helping others, if you can give, and asking for help, if you need it. If you are in need of help in any way, please contact Quartermaster Rodenberger at quartermaster@vfwseattle.org or 206-972-2135. If you would like to help with another round of phone calls to our elderly Post 3063 comrades, contact Adjutant Teeter at adjutant@vfwseattle.org or 206-701-9259.

Here are some COVID-19 resources if you would like to learn more (or Google these terms from a computer):

[CDC COVID-19 Information](#)

[COVID-19 VA FAQs](#)

[King County COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)

VFW Remains Committed to Service, Country Amidst COVID

Courtesy of VFW.org

As America's largest organization of combat veterans, the health and well-being of our members, partners, associates and communities is our top priority. For this reason and as our civic responsibility, we have implemented a number of measures to help combat the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

We have drastically expanded our flexibility of telework to employees of the VFW National Headquarters and Washington D.C. Office. Through this time, we will remain committed to providing our members and all those we assist with top-quality service as the current situation evolves.

VFW members can manage their Online Member-

ship System (OMS) account any time by logging in at vfw.org/login. Members without an online account can easily [create one now](#). For those with general inquiries regarding our organization and services, please visit vfw.org.



For complete information regarding COVID-19, please visit the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention's [dedicated webpage](#).

Go to vfw.org for more details about what the VFW is doing in response to COVID-19.

New Member Spotlight: Marleen Madding

This is a recurring column that highlights new post members. Comrade Madding joined the post in January.

What motivated you to join the VFW?

I have been a member of the VFW since 2013. Only a card-carrying member VFW Post # in Thailand. I recently moved to the Ballard area, and decided that it was time to check out the local post and become active in the veteran community.

What is your military background?

My military background started out as me being an Army brat, traveling the USA, moving to Germany. Two days after graduating high school, I was on a plane to basic training. I was trained as a 25R, however a camera was placed in my hands when I landed in Iraq and documented the forward movement and air strikes. Served in Desert Shield, Storm and Restore Hope with VII Corps out of Stuttgart, Germany. After the war, received orders for Fort Huachuca



Arizona and was on the general's staff.

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

I am a grandmother of three amazing babies ages 3, 12, and 13. My children live in Gig Harbor and Louisiana. I live with my husband and our cat, Alice, on our boat, Knot BIG Enough. Living a micro life and downsizing has been amazing. I am a spiritual life and business coach, Reiki master, and also a director with LegalShield.

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

To help lift the spirits of those who are members, for them to see the value, and attend the events more and enjoy camaraderie. My hope is to attract new members who are looking for us, add value and hope into the hearts and soul of the members and Ballard community.

Post 3063 New Members

Danny Bui

Army, Afghanistan

Warren Emmons

Marines, Somalia

Deon Curry

Navy, Expeditionary

Marleen Madding

Army, Gulf War



What's Happening In and Around the Post



During the February business meeting the post charter was draped with a black cloth for [Hans Heia](#), who passed away Feb. 1. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.



In the words of our Quartermaster, Harold Rodenberger, "If an old man like me can do it, YOU can do it. Step up and donate blood to help another community member or person in need survive." Even with COVID-19, donating blood is an essential, encouraged activity. Go to <https://www.bloodworksnw.org/> for more details.

Trustee and Past Commander Nestor Tamayao swore in the new District 6 City Councilmember, Dan Strauss in a ceremony at City Hall Jan. 8. Councilmember Strauss said on [Facebook](#), "On Monday, alongside my Council Colleagues, I took the Oath of Office. I was honored to have Nestor Tamayao, retired King County Superior Court Deputy Clerk, administer the oath. He is an inspiring public servant and someone I'm proud to call a mentor and friend."



Comrade Rodenberger accepts his recruiting award from Department Commander, John Rust during January's Mid-Winter Convention.

Upcoming Events

Socials are cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19.

April 2, 2019, 7 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting via Zoom videoconference. See page 3 of this newsletter for details.

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



Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063 is located in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle at 2812 NW Market St. The office is closed until further notice due to COVID-19.

An advertisement for RallyPoint. It features a group of soldiers in camouflage gear standing on a rocky terrain. The RallyPoint logo is visible in the top right corner. The text "Find free post traumatic growth and mental health services on RallyPoint" is overlaid on the image. A blue button with the text "LEARN & DISCUSS" is located in the bottom right corner.

RP RALLYPOINT

Find free post traumatic growth and mental health services on RallyPoint

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