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From the Commander



Greetings comrades! After peppering the post commander for an article every print newsletter it's now my turn to write these for the next year. If we aren't already acquainted, I've been with the post since 2016. In one of my first meetings Harold Rodenberger asked for help with the website and I've been volunteering with the post ever since. I served in the USAF and qualified for the VFW through serving in South Korea, and currently I'm a drilling Air Washington National Guard officer. I'm also a stay-at-home parent living in Fremont who loves to volunteer.

Part of my drive to volunteer is to meet and connect with others in my community. Getting to know veterans here in the Ballard area has made me feel more "at home" and I'm so thankful to have the opportunity to belong to this organization with such a virtuous mission! I want other veterans here to experience this feeling of comradeship so this brings me to my goals for the 2022-2023 year, which I'll brief in further detail at the July 7 business meeting: **1) Increase member participation. 2) Increase participation in community events. 3) Institute semi-annual or quarterly adopted unit events. 4) Increase post volunteer opportunities. 5) Collaborate with the Auxiliary. 6) Find a new Quartermaster. 7) Complete 501(c)(3) application. 8) Get building renovation planning back on track.**

These aren't easy goals but if we can have more folks pitch in and work together as a team, I think we can get there. I'm looking forward to working with you this year!

Yours in comradeship,

Aly Teeter (commander@vfwseattle.org)

We're on the web and Facebook! vfwseattle.org | facebook.com/vfwpost3063



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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: Alyson Teeter
Sr. Vice Commander: Mark English
Jr. Vice Commander: Bill Griffith
Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger
Adjutant: Shennae Curtis
Judge Advocate: Dan Stokke
Chaplain: Joe Fitzgerald
Surgeon: Robert Lehman
Officer of the Day: Jesse Basher
3-Year Trustee: John Ellingboe
2-Year Trustee: Aaron Stoltz
1-Year Trustee: Joe Tiffany
Service Officer: Joseph Mesa
Guard: Jesse Basher
Newsletter Editor: Alyson Teeter

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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



Welcome to the new VFW year.

Please join me in welcoming our new Post officers. For the next twelve months, Commander Alyson Teeter and crew will be sailing our good ship in search of new

goals such as standing up our own 501(c)(3) organization and getting our remodel project back on track. Our normal mission of serving veterans and their families will continue and expand. There may be an occasional tempest along the way, but if we all help hoist the sails, trim the sheets, and holystone the decks, we will make good progress.

Our Service Officer, Joseph Mesa, has agreed to serve another year. Joseph is one of the best VSO's in the state. If you, (or a vet you know) need help filing for veteran's benefits, please get in touch with Joseph, serviceofficer@vfwseattle.org or 206-488-8981.

Junior Past Commander Joe Fitzgerald and I attended the 102nd VFW State Convention in Spokane last month. We learned in classes and participated in elections as the Convention took care of business. One highlight was the award of First Place in Editorial Excellence to our newsletter. Congratulations Aly on a great job as Editor of our Ballad Eagleson Patriot!

Looking to the near future: The shredder truck will come to our parking lot on July 26th sometime between 0900-1400 (9-2). They will update us the day before with a more precise time, so if you want to standby and watch your papers be shredded, call Tuesday morning and I may be able to pin it down more closely. I understand that some of you would like to see the truck come and stay for four hours as we did in the past, but the charge for this new service is less than a third of the other. If you want you can drop off your papers and we will secure them and then watch as they're shredded.

King County has approved our request for a grant to pay for a mural on the front of our building. It will be exciting to watch our public face upgraded. Watch for further updates on this project.

Next month (8/20/22) is the Third Annual Post Picnic at the Seelig's place on Lake Serene. Look for more info at the Post, elsewhere in this paper, and on our website.

October 22nd is the date of our Annual Spaghetti Fundraiser. It's not too early to begin rounding up prizes for this great charity event. Restaurant and other business gift certificates, special gift baskets, and other personalized gifts make enticing raffle/auction prizes. Please do your best to contribute some prizes for our annual effort to raise money for our Post Relief Fund.

Please note: The Post Picnic and Spaghetti Fundraiser will take the place of our social nights in August and October.

Electronics handyperson wanted. We're in the process of upgrading our post security camera system. If you have expertise in this area, please consider volunteering to help us install a good security system. Contact quartermaster@vfwseattle.org or call 206-972-2135.

Post Members Participate in National VFW, City Day of Service



Thank you to the eight comrades – Wally, Russ, Joe K., Bob L., Harold, Mark, Joe F., and Aly (plus kids) – who came out for our post's Day of Service May 21. We spruced up the landscaping behind the post, picked up litter around the block, collected Ballard Food Bank donations and passed out Buddy Poppies to passersby. It was a beautiful day for service and we look forward to future Days of Service next year!

2022-2023 Officer Installation During May Business Meeting

Congratulations to our new slate of officers who were installed at the post and via Zoom at May's business meeting! They took office after the Department Convention in June. Also congratulations to our new slate of Auxiliary officers who were also installed the same night.

Officer Slate Installed:

Commander: Alyson Teeter
Sr. Vice Commander: Mark English
Jr. Vice Commander: Bill Griffith
Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger
Adjutant: Shennae Curtis
Judge Advocate: Dan Stokke
Chaplain: Joe Fitzgerald
Surgeon: Robert Lehman
Service Officer: Joseph Mesa
Officer of the Day/Guard: Jesse Basher
3-year Trustee: John Ellingboe
2-year Trustee: Aaron Stoltz
1-year Trustee: Joe Tiffany
3-year House Committee: Robert Lehman
2-year House Committee: Gail Engler
1-year House Committee: Russ Seelig



Volunteer to Represent the Post at the Ballard Seafood Fest

The Ballard SeafoodFest is back for 2022! We reserved a booth so mark your calendars for July 16 and 17. It's an awesome opportunity to get the word out about Post 3063, recruit potential members and give out buddy poppies.

If you'd like to staff the booth we will pass around a sign up at the July business meeting. If you won't be at the meeting please send an email to sign up to com-mander@vfwseattle.org. **Note: We are in need of volunteers because post leadership will be attending the VFW National Convention the same weekend.**



Comrades Stokke, Mesa and Fitzgerald set up the post's booth at the 2019 Seafood Fest.

HIPP HIPP HIPP HURRA! Post Participates in Syttende Mai Parade



Comrades, family and friends represented Post 3063 for the first time in many years at Ballard's annual Syttende Mai parade on May 17. They received a very warm reception from the crowd and some of us had fun waving to family and friend spectators. It was a wonderful community event and we plan on participating again next year.

In Memoriam

Comrade Justin Fitch, age 41, of Seattle, passed away March 28, 2022. You may have seen Justin around the post in the last year -- he spent many hours helping Harold and Jan with various projects. He served as an Army Ranger (75th Battalion), fulfilling 9 tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2005-2015. Memorials may be made to the Puppy Rescue Mission at puppyrescuemission.org. (Pictured right with his rescue dog from Afghanistan.)

Comrade Don Wennerlind, age 92 passed away on April 23, 2022. He served in the Army in the Korean War. Don was active with the post in the 60s, 70s and 80s. Both of his parents were very active as well.

In updating our roster, we were notified of the following passings:

Comrade Oscar Elmer Borchelt, age 100, of Maple Valley passed away on August 13, 2021. He served in the Army in World War II. Comrade Borchelt was our post commander for seven years, from 1991-1998, and was active in our post until the past few years when advancing age and retreating eyesight restricted his driving.



Comrade David Wikstrom, age 91, of Seattle passed away on July 6, 2021. David served in the Navy in the Korean war as a crew member of the light aircraft carrier USS Bataan. He attended many Navy reunions and kept contact with other crew members. He often quoted Shakespeare when mentioning the war; "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers."



Ann Leake, Our Special Santa, Passes Away at 93

We are sad to report that our dear Santa, Ann Leake, passed away April 16. For many years Ann -- whose husband Herb was a World War II veteran -- brought the Christmas spirit to the post as our very own Santa. She will be so profoundly missed. If you weren't familiar with Ann, please watch [this poignant video](#) put together by the Seattle Times.



Above: Ann Leake at her last post holiday social in December 2021.
Right: Ann and her elf, Comrade Russ Selig.



Comrade Brunstad's Puget Sound Honor Flight Recap

By Mike Brunstad

WOW! I had an awesome trip on the Puget Sound Honor Flight (PSHF) in late April 2022. The whole trip was amazing, from the time I arrived at SeaTac on April 23 to arriving back at SeaTac the night of April 25.

I learned the mission for the Puget Sound Honor Flight is simple: to honor American veterans by inviting veterans to Washington, D.C. for two days to view our nation's memorials. The whole trip is FREE to the veteran. Each veteran is assisted by a Guardian. I meet my assistant Guardian for the first time at SeaTac. My Guardian did call me before the flight to introduce herself. You can have your own Guardian travel with you. The cost of having your own Guardian to travel with you is a \$1,000 donation, which is tax deductible.

There were three WWII veterans, 11 Korean veterans, and 37 Vietnam veterans on my trip, plus Guardians for each veteran and Puget Sound Honor Flight staff and Board Members.

The first day (Saturday) was a travel day. I felt honored and truly unworthy from the time I arrived at SeaTac until we returned to SeaTac. The arrival at Baltimore was a huge surprise and an unbelievable experience. A memory I will not forget. I have to admit the whole mission put together by PSHF was outstanding.

Day 2 started with a very good breakfast at the hotel. Each veteran was given an Hon-



Mike Brunstad, right, pictured with a fellow veteran and his guardian during his Honor Flight trip in April 2020.

or Flight T-Shirt (red). We boarded our buses at 8 a.m. for a full day in D.C. We visited the following memorials with a lot of time at each stop:

- World War II Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Korean Memorial
- Vietnam Memorial (we had a boxed lunch before getting back on the bus)
- FDR Memorial
- Navy Memorial

We then returned to the hotel and had another banquet Sunday night.

Day 3 started just like Day 2, good breakfast at the hotel then we boarded our buses at 8 a.m. for a full day in D.C. We visited the following memorials:

- Arlington National Cemetery
- Changing of the Guard
- Marine Corps Memorial
- Air Force Memorial

We had a box lunch before getting back on the buses for our trip to the Baltimore Airport.

When we arrived back at SeaTac, it seemed like the whole airport knew that we had arrived HOME. It was just an AWESOME experience. After a few days I have been able to bring closure to a few outstanding items from my past. All I can say is THANK YOU to PSHF.

If you're interested in signing up for the Puget Sound Honor Flight or would like to donate, go to pugetsoundhonorflight.org.

Honor Guard and Volunteers Visit Senior Living Facilities



Above: As part of National Skilled Nursing Care Week, Comrades Gail Engler and Russ Seelig (pictured top left) visited veterans at Queen Anne Healthcare on May 14. The visit was a success and the facility has asked us to make the visits a regular occurrence in the future.

Left: Comrades Stokke and Fitzgerald provided a flag folding ceremony as part of the Memorial Day observance program at Merrill Gardens senior living on May 27.



Welcome to Post 3063, New Members!

Raymond Gopher
Navy, Arabian Gulf

Bill Hagstotz
Navy, Vietnam

Nicholas Vialpando
Army, Afghanistan

Have throwback photos from your military service? Send photos and who/what/where/when to editor@vfwseattle.org.

Upcoming Post 3063 Events

July 7, 2022, 7 p.m. – VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting. In person at the post and via Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5057012075?pwd=K1ppc3RCNHRaYkhyNjFhb0w2dkdlQT09>

Meeting ID: 505 701 2075, Password: Ballard306

By Phone: 253-215-8782, Password: 064533

July 16-17, 2022 – Ballard SeafoodFest. We'll have a booth! If you want to volunteer, contact commander@vfwseattle.org.

July 21, 2022, 6:30 p.m. – VFW Post 3063 Monthly Social. Reservations are required! To reserve, text/call or email at 206-972-2135 or quartermaster@vfwseattle.org.

July 26, 2022 – Community Shredder Day in the post parking lot.

August 20, 2022 – Post Picnic at the Seelig's

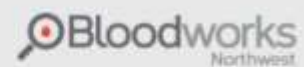
October 22, 2022 – Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Fundraiser



Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063 is located in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle at 2812 NW Market St.



Thank you for being a life-saver! / FOR SAFETY, APPOINTMENTS ONLY



As our community continues to face a dangerous blood and platelet shortage, Bloodworks Northwest is in dire need of donations to supply local hospitals. We encourage you to make an appointment to donate blood at these local Ballard drives this summer and plan to give every 56 days after. Your commitment helps ensure local patients receive lifesaving care—because the need for blood doesn't take a summer break. Let's save more lives together.

Swedish Medical Center Ballard Campus
5300 Tallman Ave NW
July 6 & 7

Leif Erickson Lodge
2245 NW 57th St
July 25 & 26

Ballard Elks Lodge
6411 Seaview Ave NW
August 31 & September 1, 8 & 9