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From the Commander



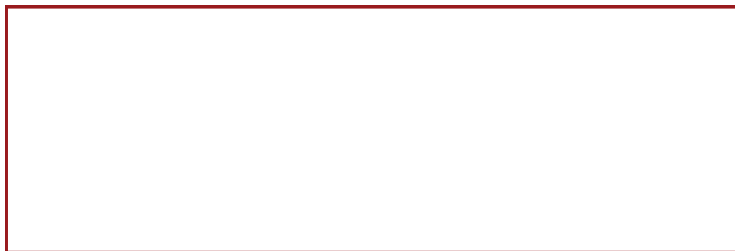
Comrades, I know this must feel a bit like Bill Murray's Groundhog Day movie but we must keep our collective heads up and continue moving forward. This second dose of Covid-19 masking will pass too.

In the meantime, however, we must continue with the masking in accordance with the mandated state requirements. Who knows if this will be short lived or not, but erring on the side of caution, it was determined that it was best for the September Post Business Meeting to be a Zoom only meeting. **The Oct. 7 business meeting will also be via Zoom ONLY.** The login information will be the same as it has been all along. This return to Zoom only will be assessed from month-to-month. We will return to the in-person business meetings as soon as it is possible to do so.

That's it for now. Hope that this finds you all in good health! Keep the heart unwrinkled and remember, "Don't worry about a thing, 'Cause every little thing gonna be all right!"

- Commander Joe

We're on the web and Facebook! vfwseattle.org | 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.

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.

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Jr Vice Commander: Bill Griffith
Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger
Adjutant: Shennae Curtis
Judge Advocate: Dan Stokke
Chaplain: Joseph Mesa
Surgeon: Robert Lehman
Officer of the Day: VACANT
3-Year Trustee: Robert O'Brien
2-Year Trustee: Nestor Tamayao
1-Year Trustee: Dan Stokke
Service Officer: Joseph Mesa
Guard: VACANT
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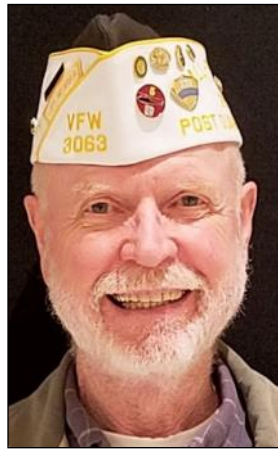
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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



Please note! Our meeting on 10/7/21 will be conducted on Zoom only. Zoom connect info is elsewhere in this paper and on our website.

Our Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser will be conducted in person unless there is a change in guidance from Gov. Inslee or King County. Only vaccinated will be allowed to attend in person.

There are **two events** to remember this month.

First, our shredder truck date is 10/19/21. We are working with a new company this year. The truck will be in our parking lot sometime between 0900-1200 on that Tuesday. You are welcome to bring your shred papers to the post that morning and wait for the truck to arrive so you can watch the shredder gobble up your papers. Or, if you don't need to see the actual shredding, you can bring your papers to the post during normal office hours and we will lock them in the Arms Room until shredding time. When the truck arrives, we'll take your papers, along with ours and others, to the truck and make sure they are properly shredded. Even though the truck is less expensive, donations are requested to offset the cost.

The **second, and more important,**

event this month is our annual Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser with raffle and online auction. This is our one big fundraiser for the year so it is important that all of our members support it by buying tickets and helping out in person, if possible.

We need prizes for the auction and raffle. If you can solicit or donate a prize, please bring it to the post so we can photograph and post it to the auction site.

Tickets are available at the office during normal office hours, and at the auction website <https://www.biddingowl.com/auction/rtickets.cfm?auctionid=22225> If you are going to buy online, the easiest way is to go to our website: vfwseattle.org and click on the link in the first line to go to the ticket selling location.

We will be conducting the **raffle** at the post after dinner. The **online auction** will be via BiddingOwl at the website shown above. The online auction starts at noon on 10/21 and ends at 8 p.m. on Sunday 10/24. You are welcome to go to the site early and review items beginning as soon as we get photographs posted, hopefully 10/3/21.

In addition to coming up with prizes and selling tickets, we also need help at the hall from a couple days prior and especially on the day of the raffle. Please call Russ Seelig (206-423-1150) or myself (206-972-2135) if you are available to help.

VFW 122nd National Convention Recap, All American Status

By Harold Rodenberger

Last year our National Convention was attended via Zoom only. This year in August, Commander Joe Fitzgerald and I went to Kansas City to attend the 122nd VFW National Convention. Because of the continuing dangers from Covid-19, it was a “business only” convention with no Health Fair, Patriotic Parade or hospitality rooms. In accordance with local guidance, effective Monday, August 2nd we all wore masks inside.

On Saturday and Sunday, Joe and I registered and then attended various classes on recruiting, local Service Officer procedures, and Veterans and Military Services. We also visited the VFW Store to order our All-American caps.

Monday, the ceremonies included a welcome and congratulatory speech from our C-in-C Hal Roesch, and a ten-minute video presentation by President Biden. VFW National Home’s Buddy Poppy Child, 7-year-old Aurora, surprised me by giving a speech that would have been a credit to a teenager. She then was escorted by members of the National Honor Guard as she circulated around the hall collecting donations for the National Home.

Honors were given to departments, districts and posts who achieved various “Legacy Membership” status, “Triple-Crown” winners, and All-American winners at all levels. **Our post was awarded All-American status for 2020-2021, a first in the history of our post!**

Monday afternoon and Tuesday, we conducted important business, discussing and voting on various resolutions proposed by posts worldwide and by our national representatives.

Some resolutions were of a “housekeeping” nature. Several dealt with the definition of “quorum” and in most cases those were approved to include electronic participation (Zoom or similar) where all participants could have simultaneous communication.

Resolutions B-20 and M-9 were approved. They deleted the entire old Article IX from the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure and substituted new sections dealing with discipline.

Resolutions R-1 and R-2 in the Commemorative Tributes Section of the Ritual, added Oct 23rd – Beirut Bombing and March 29th – National Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day.

We approved Resolution 201 “BE IT RESOLVED, that

the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States does commit itself to the ideals of diversity and rejects bigotry of all kinds so as to strengthen the bonds of our great organization.”

Resolution 405 was approved to urge DOD to become more aggressive in its prevention efforts to reduce sexual assault and harassment, to provide victims with proper medical and mental health care, to aggressively investigate every reported incident and punish attackers as appropriate, to stop all retribution and retaliation, and to provide scrutiny to the military justice process.

Resolutions 407 was approved to support legislation for the full concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation without offset and regardless of rating percentage.

Resolutions 408, 409 and 410 were approved, as they have been for many years, to support ROC Taiwan, Republic of Korea and the Country of Israel.

Resolution 413, which our post approved and forwarded to District 2 for their approval, was approved at District and at our state levels and approved by the convention. It urges the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to recognize the contributions of Afghan and Iraqi Combat Interpreter Immigrants who stood shoulder to shoulder with, assisted and protected U.S. military service members, U.S. diplomats and government agents, non-governmental organizations, and media organizations during U.S. involvement in those countries.

Resolution 414 respectfully requests the Secretary of the Navy to name a future Naval vessel after the only Philippine Medal of Honor recipient, Telesforo Trinidad.

On Tuesday, many awards were given to VFW national officers, checks were delivered by corporate sponsor representatives and the Convention elected and installed officers for the ensuing year. Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie Darin Combs presented a \$43,000 check to Chief Roesch for a new snow plow at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich. Combs said Cootie membership increased by 105 percent this year, the largest increase since the organization began keeping records.

If you’re interested in learning more details about the convention, go to vfw.org click on “Media and Events,” then “National Convention,” where you’ll find a streaming option or you can review the press releases.

We Need Your Help! Dinner and Fundraiser Slated in October

The post's annual Spaghetti Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23 starting at 5 pm. We plan to host a wonderful dinner, courtesy of Chef Kay and a raffle for select items. Our Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser will be conducted in person unless there is a change in guidance from Gov. Inslee or King County. **Only vaccinated will be allowed to attend in person.** We're also hosting a Bidding Owl virtual auction for big ticket items, which you can view at www.biddingowl.com/Auction/home.cfm?auctionID=22225. **Be sure to spread the word!**



As always, we are looking to make this event a huge success. And as always, we need some help. Here's how you can help ensure that we meet our fundraising goals:

1. **Sell Tickets.** We need to sell 200 tickets and all members should plan on selling between 5 and 10. You can pick up tickets at the post or have Jan mail them to you. You can also buy tickets on the BiddingOwl Auction site at biddingowl.com/auction/rtickets.cfm?auctionid=22225.
2. **Get Raffle & Auction Prizes.** You would be surprised by how many businesses are glad to support a good cause, so mention it to your favorite restaurant or bar. Do you belong to a museum? They may want to help too. Please put on your thinking cap and see if there is something you can do, make, donate, etc., that would make a prize **that others would want**. Personal services, hand-made crafts, fresh baked products, etc., come to mind. If you have high value auction items to contribute, please take a photo and upload to this Google Photos album at tinyurl.com/a8vruh26 along with a comment that includes the item description and fair market value. You can also email quartermaster@vfwseattle.org or call Harold Rodenberger at 206-972-2135 with donations.
3. **Day-of help.** We are also going to need kitchen, bar and raffle help the night of the event. If you would like to help, please let us know.

Contact Russ Seelig at 206-423-1150 or Harold with questions, suggestions or to volunteer. Also, here's a handy guide for participating in the virtual auction: tinyurl.com/wmnj6mbt.

Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063

Spaghetti Dinner & Raffle

Saturday, Oct. 23, 5 - 9 p.m.
Virtual Auction Oct. 21-24

Tickets \$20

Support Veterans!

Proceeds benefit the Post 3063 Veterans Relief Fund.
Tickets and details at VFWSeattle.org.



Thoughts on Afghanistan: Post Response, Services Available

In the lead up to the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the news that came out of Afghanistan was tough to watch, especially for our Afghanistan veterans. Here were some poignant words from our comrade, Robert Kettle:

I remember clearly 9/11 and the summer 20 years ago at SIXTH Fleet as we worked through Intelligence reporting and all the chatter about a pending strike. I remember clearly too the COLE bombing in Aden harbor 11 months before which had us already ramped up as we embarked on the Global War on Terror. Ten [years](#) on I remember clearly our JCS strike group operations in the N. Arabian Sea in support of Op. ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan. Now twenty years on I look with great sadness on the events of today in Afghanistan but also on so many waypoints along the way that led us to this point.

I reflect on the nature of the history of our involvement in the country and the history of the country itself knowing that unlike, for example, Germany there was no shared threat to bind us together not to mention other challenges in the relationship that meant at some point we would need to leave.

I reflect on lives lost both incountry and out; im-

mediate and long delayed. Of those injured too whether seen or unseen. Their sacrifice cannot be thought of as being in vain for it was not.

I reflect too on the people of Afghanistan and of the Great Game of an earlier time that played itself out again over the last four decades wondering with this chapter closing what will the next chapter bring. My wondering is of sadness still.



Regarding support for our Afghan allies, Post 3063 has a track record of backing the Special Immigrant Visa program. In 2020, our post voted to endorse No One Left Behind's proposed resolution for adoption at the VFW National Convention. We're happy to report that it was adopted by National last summer. See more about the SIV program and No One Left Behind's advocacy at nooneleft.org.

Veterans who served in Afghanistan may be experiencing a range of challenging emotions related to the U.S withdrawal from the country and unfolding events. Veterans who served during other conflicts may also be feeling strong emotions as they may be reminded of their own deployment experiences. Strategies for managing ongoing distress are available at va.gov. Please take care of yourselves and also feel free to reach out to our Post 3063 Service Officer, Joseph Mesa at serviceofficer@vfwseattle.org.

Welcome to Post 3063, New Members!

John Blakey

Army
Iraq

Grant Johnson

Navy
Vietnam

Alexander Sylvester

Marines
Afghanistan

Officer Spotlight: Bob Lehman, Post 3063 Surgeon

This is a recurring column that highlights the 2021-2022 post officers.

What is your military background?

My military service is backwards to nearly everyone else: I was in private practice for 22 years, and then joined the Air Force at age 52. Accidentally, I became a flight surgeon, that got me deployed to Iraq, and led to another residency in Aerospace Medicine. Which then led to 3 more deployments: Korea, Iraq again, and Kyrgyzstan. My role as Aerospace Medicine specialist meant I flew and took care of air crews, but it also put me overseeing shop safety and public health on the base, which put me in an experienced role when Covid arrived – having dealt with SARS1, MERS, Swine Flu/N1H1, and Ebola already.

Tell us about your position and what you hope to accomplish during your term.

I'm still trying to decide my role with the Post. I've enjoyed contributing to the newsletter, particularly trying to translate what is going on with Covid. I can offer medical advice to members and fellow board members as we negotiate these times where the goal posts seem to keep moving. My goal is still to

meet people, and hopefully we will be able to do more in-person functions in the future as vaccination of the members increases.

How long have you belonged to Post 3063 and did you previously serve in an officer position?

I joined the VFW less than 2 years ago after I retired from the Air Force and moved to Seattle. My intent was to try to meet people, but then Covid hit. I was asked to be Post Surgeon, which is fun for some as I really am a surgeon.



Comrade Lehman during his service in the U.S. Air Force.

Food, Games and Comradship Enjoyed at Annual Post Picnic

Post membership enjoyed good food, fun games and comradship at the annual post picnic at the Seelig's Aug. 7, 2021. Thank you to everyone who organized and participated!



Service Throwback: John Ellingboe

Last year Comrade John Ellingboe offered up a photo from his service in Vietnam and subsequently the newsletter editor learned he had a stunning collection of more photos. We created a photo gallery on our website -- check out the entire photo essay at vfwseattle.org/index.php/2021/07/29/john-ellingboe-photos-from-vietnam/.



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

Upcoming Events

October 7, 2021, 7 p.m. – VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting via **Zoom ONLY**. [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5057012075?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5057012075?pwd=K1ppc3RCNHRaYkhyNjFhb0w2dkdlQT09)

[pwd=K1ppc3RCNHRaYkhyNjFhb0w2dkdlQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5057012075?pwd=K1ppc3RCNHRaYkhyNjFhb0w2dkdlQT09)

Meeting ID: 505 701 2075, Password: Ballard306

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

October 19, 2021 – VFW Post 3063 Shredding Event. See Quartermaster's Update for details!

October 23, 2021 – VFW Post 3063 Spaghetti Dinner and Fundraiser. Tickets are available for \$20 at the post or online. We are also accepting donations for the virtual auction and raffle. For more information, read this newsletter or go to vfwseattle.org/index.php/fundraising.



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



Reminder: Youth Essays Due October 31!

High school students can enter the Voice of Democracy contest: bit.ly/2IJIE0g.

Middle school students can enter the Patriot's Pen contest: bit.ly/2mKrezW.

Elementary students in grades 3-5 can enter the special Youth Essay program run by the Washington Department, Veterans of Foreign Wars: vfwva.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=79734.

Please submit entries to Quartermaster Rodenberger by Oct. 31. Good luck!