



The Veterans News

Department of Washington Quarterly Newsletter



Commander



First; I would like to thank everyone who was in attendance at the Department of Washington Mid-Winter Conference in Spokane. It was a very productive event, not only with our own state programs and the different reports from

the various Chairperons. but I was equally impressed by the presentation from Walgreens representatives on Suicide prevention. It was great that they invited the VA to participate in the presentation as well.

I also hope that you took advantage of the free flu shot program provided by them as well, like I did. The Conference culminated with the grand event, our Voice of Democracy Banquet. Thank you all for making this a huge success.

Now with that behind us, **NOW** is the time to push the gas pedal on membership. The department is currently at 92 percent in membership. As you may have heard, the Commander In Chief has put out the word that any department that reaches 97 percent by 1 April will be given a tribute Henry Rifle. Should this department achieve this honor, I will present this beautiful 1922 rifle at the convention to the post with the highest number of new/reinstated members. They may use it as a raffle item and use the proceeds for that post. To get maximum participation the cutoff date for the department will be June 15 2018.

The department is having a membership Class that will be held at Post 969 on March 24, 2018, 8:30am – 3:00pm. We have the privilege of having the National Membership director Rick Butler to conduct this training for us.

Remember membership is the lifeblood of our organization, and without it we cannot do anything. It all starts at the grass roots level. From getting funds for our post, through ultimately taking care of veterans and their families; from service work to fighting for the benefits they deserve.

Once again thank you for all the hard work that you continue to do for all veterans. It is truly noticed.

John Bradburn
State Commander

Jr. Vice-Commander's Report

Thank you to all the Post and Auxiliary members that helped with the various Youth Activities Programs during the first half of this VFW year, plus getting out the word about "A Day to Change Direction" a campaign that focuses on services and action to change the dialog on MENTAL HEALTH.

Also remember that there still is the Art Contest that is completed later this year.

John Rust
State Jr. Vice Commander

Chaplain's Report

Thank you to all the Posts that have submitted Chaplain reports to the Department office this year. Remember your Post Chaplain is a very important part of your Post in the support and assistance to veterans and their families. Please submit your entries for Chaplain of the year to Robin at the Five headquarters no later than April 1st. Thank you Chaplains for all you do.

John Beam
Department Chaplain

Quartermaster's Report

Greetings Comrades,

It is an honor to be addressing you in the first State Newsletter in many years. Thank you, Jim Daly, for taking on this project.



If you need to reach me for any Quartermaster related item, I will be in the Fife office on most Thursdays and Fridays. You can reach me by email at: QM@VFVWA.NET or pmanly@icehouse.net. If you need to contact me by phone, my cell phone is 509-979-1627. If I am not available to answer, please leave a message or text.

I am in the process of streamlining the accounting for the Department. Reports for the Council of Administration should become simpler and more understandable. It has been a challenge to merge two bookkeeping systems into one. We shall see how well that has been accomplished in the next newsletter.

Quartermasters, Trustees, and Commanders: be sure to check those audits before you sign them. Often the numbers simply do not add up. In one recent case, one fund was accidentally left off the audit, although it was included in the total. Usually, it is something simple. However, your audit is your best guarantee that financial information for your post members is accurate. This includes your canteen. The canteen is your most likely source for fraud, theft, and abuse. Our canteens can be excellent fundraising operations – but only if they are properly monitored.

Quartermasters, if you need assistance with your 990 forms, please contact me. They are not that difficult. If you do not have a canteen, your 990 should take about an hour to complete, with a canteen about 4 to 6 hours.

And, finally, bonding! When you do your audit, check your bond against your funds. The

bond should be larger. We had at least 8 4th Quarter Audits, in which the bond was not high enough. This is easily remedied: send a letter to Department, requesting an increase in bond, and a check for the difference (you do not need to pay for a complete new bond).

I invite all Quartermasters, Trustees, and Line Officers to the Quartermaster school at the Department Convention. Yes, line officers; you do need to be aware of your Quartermaster requirements.

Yours in Comradeship,
Paul Manly, State Quartermaster

Judge Advocate's Report

Comrades,

Greetings! I tried to find some great, interesting information that would leave you on the edge of your seat wanting to read the Judge Advocate's article, but really couldn't come up with anything that you don't already know; update your bylaws to take out the word "Ladies" in reference to the Auxiliary; update them within 5 years (to include your house and club if you have a canteen); ensure all your officers are eligible and duly elected; and play nice..... we're all volunteers.



For some reason, that last thing seems to be the most challenging! Remember, Comrades, that this organization can't survive without everyone. The more we antagonize, degrade and fight with each other, the more we look like an organization that the younger troops don't want to join. We need to focus on what our mission statement says and DO IT, instead of finding fault with others. In this climate of harassment throughout the Nation (from actors all the way to Washington DC!) you've got to ensure your treatment of others reflects what our organization should stand on; equality of all!

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Next; I'm not going to use this article to "bust out" a Post or District (I've talked with them individually) about their bylaws expiring and/or their need to follow them. What I will do, however, is I'll try to motivate you to focus on those we help.



For example; I had the honor of presenting \$1,600 in checks and cash from different Posts, to the Pierce County Sheriff's Office for the family of Navy Veteran and Deputy Sheriff Daniel McCartney, who was killed in the line of duty. Helping his family with expenses associated with Deputy McCartney's funeral is a great example of helping our Veterans families. Thank you to all the Posts (and individuals) who donated! The family really needed the help!!

Please remember, when you do Poppy drives and use that relief money to help those in need; it means something! Know that when you do toy drives, or food drives, you are directly helping your community! Refocus on calling Comrades that haven't paid their annual membership, because maybe they're in need and just don't know how to ask for it. Wear that cap with your Post number on it with pride as you've done something that less than 1% of Americans have done; represented this great Nation in another land. Everyone else that wears that cap is your Brother or Sister in arms. Treat them all with respect, dignity, and equality and we'll all be surprised with what our Department can accomplish!

Lastly, if there is anything you need help with (in regard to the VFW - my plate is full of chores at home so I can't mow your lawn!) I'd be happy to help! Just give me a call!!

Yours in Comradeship!
Traci Williams
State Judge Advocate

Surgeon's Report



Another great meeting with the Staff of the Spokane VA Hospital. They have a friendly and caring staff for our Veterans. We presented a check from the Department of Washington VFW and the Auxiliary also presented them with a check to assist them with their programs enhancing the moral and welfare of our Veterans at the hospital.



The visit to the Spokane Veterans Home was amazing. The staff there were incredible. Each one of them has



a level of love for our veterans that is to be commended. Their hearts are in their care.

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Some of the interesting experiences at the Spokane Veterans Home are that each Branch of



Service common areas in the facility are known by their Branch of Service. Their rehab programs are oriented to common home tasks to help the residents with life skills such as cooking and washing dishes. A check from the Department of Washington was presented to them to assist them with their morale boosting programs and activities. They were working on putting in a new garden area when we were visiting so it will be great to go back and see how that project turned out.

Chad Hassebroek
Department Surgeon

2018 – 2019 Scholarship Programs

Voice of Democracy
“Why My Vote Matters”

Patriot’s Pen
“Why I Honor the American Flag”

Youth Essay
“How The American Flag Makes Me Feel”

Veteran Of The Year Program

Post Commanders, please submit your entries for Veteran of the year thru your District for selection and submission to the Fife headquarters by April 1st.

Hero’s In the Ball Park Program

Don’t forget to make your donation to this Year’s Heroes in the Ballpark Program. For those who are wanting to go to the game in Tacoma or Spokane, please send your number of tickets needed and money to department and specify Tacoma Game or Spokane Game. The cut off dates for Donations is May 15, 2018. The cut off date for tickets to the Tacoma Rainiers game is April 13th. The cut off date for the tickets to the Spokane Indians game is August 17th.

The Veterans News

March 2018

Editor: Jim Daly (360) 581-5153

Send submissions for the next issue to: vwofwanewsletter@gmail.com

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Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Washington
And Auxiliary



8th Annual

HEROES IN THE BALL PARK

Friday, April 20, 2018

Rainiers VS Isotopes

We will all be watching the game this year WITH the Soldiers from the same location!

Ticket Price is \$30.00 Cash or Check Payable to VFW Department of Washington (memo Heroes in the Ball Park Tacoma Ticket) Due to Department by April 15, 2018

Your Ticket Gets You
Exclusive use of Right Field Party Deck and Grass Berm

90 Minute BBQ Buffet

There will be 3 kegs of domestic beer and 24 bottles of wine

Unlimited soda and bottled water throughout the game

\$2.50 of each ticket sold will be donated to the National Military Assistance Program

Post and Auxiliary Donations to the Heroes in the Ball Park Program 2017-2018

Donations can be made from your Relief Fund

Cash or Check Payable to VFW Department of Washington (memo Heroes in the Ball Park)

VFW Department of Washington Heroes in the Ball Park donation is a Post requirement to attain All-State Post

Your donations to the program will support 500 Air Force, Soldiers, Military Members and their Families to a morale boosting night

Military and Family at Rainiers receive a ticket to the game and Exclusive use of Right Field Party Deck

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR POST AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS SO WE ENSURE MAXIMUM INDIVIDUAL, POST AND AUXILIARY SUPPORT OF THIS INCREDIBLE PROGRAM SUPPORTING OUR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES. THIS PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS THE VFW AND AUXILIARY SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE GAME AND SHOWS THE COMMUNITY THAT NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS THAN THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CHAD HASSEBROEK (580) 704-7995 or email vfwmember@yahoo.com



Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Washington
And Auxiliary



8th Annual

HEROES IN THE BALL PARK

Friday, August 24, 2018

Indians VS Volcanoes

We will all be watching the game this year WITH the Military and Families from the same location!

Ticket Price is \$15.00 Cash or Check Payable to VFW Department of Washington (memo Heroes in the Ball Park Spokane Ticket) Due to Department by August 15, 2018

New this year

- A table on the outer concourse of Avista Stadium for VFW's use
- Option to provide the Spokane Indians with a program insert
- Public address announcement

\$4.00 of each ticket sold will be donated to the National Veterans and Military Services Program

Post and Auxiliary Donations to the Heroes in the Ball Park Program 2017-2018

Donations can be made from your Relief Fund

Cash or Check Payable to VFW Department of Washington (memo Heroes in the Ball Park)

VFW Department of Washington Heroes in the Ball Park donation is a Post requirement to attain All-State Post

Your donations to the program will support 500 Air Force, Soldiers, Military Members and their Families to a morale boosting night

Military and Family at Spokane Indians receive a ticket to the game and \$10 Indian Bucks

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR POST AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS SO WE ENSURE MAXIMUM INDIVIDUAL, POST AND AUXILIARY SUPPORT OF THIS INCREDIBLE PROGRAM SUPPORTING OUR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES. THIS PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS THE VFW AND AUXILIARY SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE GAME AND SHOWS THE COMMUNITY THAT NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS THAN THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WES ANDERSON (208) 640-7194 or email wanderson7@hotmail.com

VFW Annual Publications Contest

Submissions must be received at Department by March 10, 2018

Public Relations Chairman, Jim Daly, jdaly0609@gmail.com or (360) 581-5153

The Department of Washington, Veterans of Foreign Wars is now accepting submissions for its 2018 Newsletter Contest. VFW District or Post publications published up to three times annually, or four or more times annually, will be judged in four categories.

The categories are:

Department/District/Post-level Newsletters:

Publication Frequency: 1-4 times per year

5 or more times per year

Judging will be based upon:

Content (Possible 50 points)

Layout and Graphics (Possible 30 points)

General Excellence (Possible 20 points)

Each category will be awarded three places

All entries submitted must have been published sometime between Jan. 1, 2017, and Dec. 31, 2017.

Best Feature Article:

Examples of eligible subjects for the Best Feature submissions include operations of state VA departments, National Guard/Reserve unit deployments overseas, troop-support activities, Department VFW programs, dedication of state memorials, state or local commemorative events for the 50th anniversary of Vietnam. **Editorials or opinion articles WILL NOT be considered this year.** Articles written by *VFW* magazine staff and reprinted in District, Post or Department publications **will not** be considered.

Feature Articles to be judged for a Department level award should be submitted to Department by March 10, 2018. Submissions of Feature Articles sent to Department will be forwarded to National.

Forward all submissions for Post/District Newsletter and Feature Article for Department judging by March 10, 2018:

Publicity and Public Relations Committee

Chairman: Jim Daly

5213 Pacific Hwy E.

Fife, WA 98424

All issues and articles published between Jan. 1, 2017, and Dec. 31, 2017, qualify.

Entries may be sent directly to the VFW National Headquarters. This year, the National competition will be open to any submission, not just the winning submissions from the Department level. This is to remove any bias at all levels. One copy of each submission should be mailed by April 3, 2018, to:

Publications Contest

VFW Magazine

406 West 34th Street, Suite 523

Kansas City, MO 64111



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S.

Department of Washington

5213 Pacific Hwy E, Fife, Washington 98424
253-922-2114 F# 253-922-2208
deptsec@vfwwa.net

FEBRUARY 2017

HAPPY SPRING!

Department Website – new website!

www.vfwwa.org

I've been getting a lot of phone calls from people going to the OLD website. It is not our website anymore. We are still in the process of updating some stuff, but it is available. If an old version of what you are looking for is on the site, or not on the site at all, just let me know, so I can fix it and get you a current copy.

State Commander's & President's Homecoming – this year it will be at the South Sound Manor in Tumwater on April 14th from 6PM to 10 PM. More information to come.

Anniversaries –

Happy Birthday to the following Posts:

Native American Post 11481 in Neah Bay – 25 Yrs old

Monroe Post 7511 in Monroe – 50 Yrs old

Sumner – Bonney Lake Post 3070 in Sumner – 75 Yrs old

North Kitsap Weaver Post 2463 in Kingston – 75 Yrs old

M/A Wild West Post 91 in Tacoma – 100 Yrs old

This Year, you have the opportunity to order the Anniversary poppies in celebration.

25 Yrs – Silver poppies 50 Yrs – Gold poppies 75+ Yrs – Diamond poppies

Just notate the order form to reflect if you want the Anniversary poppies instead of the red poppies. Payment is the same.

June Convention – This year's June Convention is in Bremerton at the Bremerton Convention Center. Banquet is \$40. Hotels are the Hampton Inn & the Fairfield Inn. Forms are enclosed.

Membership – Please see the attached recruiting incentives

All State Awards – The deadline for everything to be into Department is April 15th. The requirements are listed in the State Roster in the Membership section.

Elections - It is almost time for electing the new Post / District officers. If you are the Post/ District Quartermaster/ Adjutant, please be sure to fill out the election reports FULLY. Which means phone numbers & addresses for EVERYONE.

DO NOT USE THE POST ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER AS PERSONAL ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS for anyone! **Per National By Laws - All Election reports must be received no later than June 1st!**

Voting at Convention – Delegate strengths & fees are configured by the membership numbers of the post as of April 15th. (1 delegate per every 30 members {or fraction thereof} + Commander)

Please do not send in your fees until you have received the delegate letter showing what is needed from your post. You must also have all 4 audits in, current 990, complete election report, and delegate list. Everything must be received by Department by June 1st. If these items are not in, your Post members will not have a vote at convention.

Heroes in the Ballpark – Both in Tacoma, WA and Spokane, WA information enclosed.

The Veterans News

March 2018

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