



The Veterans News

Department of Washington Quarterly Newsletter



Commanders Report



I would like to thank every member for all of your hard work both post and auxiliary. We together have made many accomplishments through the year together, with the national and our own state programs, serving veterans and their families which is a clear display of T.E.A.M. .

I would be remiss if I did not take the time to acknowledge the members who help start and continue to assist the brand new post in DuPont 12170. This was a huge success being the first post in 13 years to be chartered in the State Of Washington.

As we continue to get closer to the end of the year we all have to put a much bigger priority on our states membership. The department is currently at 97.08 percent in membership, still needing 755. Commanders I would encourage you and your leadership to go thru your unpaid rosters and call those members, as well I would ask every member to recruit just one new member that would help us achieve our goal and to have this state again be an all American state.

And don't forget about those recruiting incentives that in place for you I know we can do this!!!!

Remember Membership is our lifeblood for our organization and without it we can not 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 their benefits that they deserve. It is our responsibilities to care of the next generation of veterans.

As we approach the State Convention to be held in Bremerton, we have many things planed for you this year. I am honored to announce that we will have the pleasure of having Governor Jay Inslee with us at our Joint Session.

Once again thank you for all your hard work that you continue to do for all veterans, it is truly

noticed and travel safe as I look forward seeing everyone in Bremerton.

John Bradburn
State Commander

Sr. Vice-Commander's Report



Comrades, Sisters & Brothers,

Can you believe how fast the year is going? By the time this is published each Post and Auxiliary and most of the Districts will have elected new Officers for the next year. I want to personally thank all the elected and appointed officers

and chairman that have stepped up to accept a position for the 2018-2019 VFW year. I am looking forward to working with each of you in the coming year.

The mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is "To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans." We do this by providing assistance for claims and benefits, advocacy for legislative priorities and community service.

Commanders and Chairmen, please encourage all your members to sign up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly. To sign up go to VFW.org- Advocacy-Grass Roots. The VFW Action Corps Weekly, is an easy-to-read electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill. The VFW Action Corps is what gives the VFW its strength in advocating for our nation's heroes. Working hand-in-hand with the VFW's National Legislative Service -- whose office is in eye-shot of the Capitol dome in Washington -- members of the VFW Action Corps are armed with all of the tools and information they need to help the VFW in its mission to support our nation's veterans.

It is predicted at the current rate of loss the VFW membership will drop below 1 million in the next 4 years. In order to be a strong advocate for Veterans we cannot let this happen. I would like to ask each Post and Auxiliary to look at "How can we be more

successful in recruiting new members and reinstating members that we have lost? What can we do to make our VFW Post and Auxiliary more successful?"

Some of the things you may consider are:
Familiarize yourself with each other's programs. Communicate with each other and work together. Have membership applications for both the post and the auxiliary with you when you are out in the community. Do not miss the opportunity to recruit a new post or auxiliary member. Start now advertising the youth essay programs. The new forms are available at both the national and state web sites at vfw.org and vfwwa.org.

When you have a table during buddy poppies or membership recruiting drives stand to the side of the table and have interesting items (pictures of members/others during time in service, map to show where they have served, helmets, military ball caps, etc.), posters, and materials to bring people to your table. Be prepared to sell the VFW. Give reasons why someone should join your post or auxiliary.

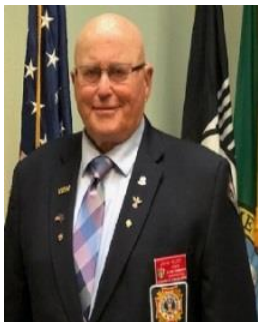
Together we can build our Posts and Auxiliaries and continue to be the organization that supports and advocates for Veterans, Military and their Families.

Together with

Commitment, Pride and Respect,

Linda Fairbank
State Sr. Vice Commander

Jr. Vice-Commander's Report



I would like to thank all the individuals that took part in the youth activities programs of the VFW and supporting me this year.

I will be a candidate for the State Senior Vice-Commander Position at the State

Convention in June at Bremerton, Washington.

John Rust

State Jr. Vice Commander

Quartermaster's Report

Comrades,

This past several months have been very interesting and a learning experience. We continue to streamline the accounting system so that is less confusing and more understandable for the officers and



members. When approved, we will publish an abbreviated budget for 2018-2019, upon approval of the Department Commander, so all members will understand what the Department is doing.

I am available to answer questions, not just for quartermasters, but for all members when they have quartermaster related questions. This includes finance and membership issues. You can reach me at the following numbers:

Department: 253-922-2114 ext 226

Cell Phone: 509-979-1627

Home Phone: 509-467-5564

PLEASE – leave a message if I am unable to answer when you call, but speak slowly so I can understand you, especially return telephone numbers.

I am asking for your vote this June at the State Convention for State Quartermaster. I have much to do to finish the quest I have started to simplify our Department Accounting. I believe the trustees will bear that they are not displeased with my work.

Paul Manly
State Quartermaster

Judge Advocate's Report



Greetings, Comrades!

This is our last newsletter before the June Convention and in looking back at my previous newsletter articles, I asked myself what more can I say. My last

newsletter article really hit all I want to emphasis. Please, if you haven't read it yet, it's still posted on the website.

I am running for State Jr. Vice Commander and already have heard that someone will be running against me.....again. I really try to focus on my job I've volunteered for, but when I hear all these rumors that are not meant as constructive but personal towards me, I sometimes feel why stick with this. Thank God I have many friends that remind me exactly why I do this..... I only need to look towards our own Constitution. We are supposed to strengthen comradeship within our members, not attack each other. I still try to figure out what I've done, personally, against some that focus on attacking me, but when I ask others what it may be, they tell me I'm a strong-willed female and some guys don't like that. I can't believe in these times that just the mere fact that I'm female would have them focus so much of their time on this. Yes, I know, I am strong-willed, and I say that's the 1SG in me coming out. I've tried and will continue to try to push the military out of me but 25 years is a long time of military training to squelch! I've been out for 3 years now, so hopefully I'm "calming down" but not losing the leadership traits I learned as a 1SG. If you have an issue with me, please just let me know. You can email me if you don't want to talk to me face to face; and I'll answer you. I want to get this state focused on our mission and away from personal attacks on anyone; not just me. Bullying is not just by school aged kids; it happens in the VFW too and that is unacceptable. Like I said in my last article; just imagine how much we can accomplish when we're all focused on the same mission!

I want to thank the Posts and District 7 for the honor of installing your incoming officers for the ensuing year. It is always awesome to hear what everyone doing and am in awe of all the mission-oriented events you're up to!! Keep up the great works of the VFW!!

Yours in Comradeship!
Traci Williams
State Judge Advocate

Surgeon's Report

I would like to report in this issue, some great hospital support that has been going on in our State

this year involving our Military Order of the Cooties (Honor Degree of the VFW). Pup tents have been donating new air rifles to VA Hospitals so the shooters have better rifles to compete in local National Competitions.



The rifles donated are Beeman AR2078A .177 Cal Air Rifles CO2 powered. The first two rifles were presented to Anne Peterson the VA Director of recreation programs at Seattle VA from Pup Tent "Lucky 11". Two rifles were donated by the Grand of Washington and One rifle donated from VAN ORC Pup Tent in Vancouver WA for a total of 5 new rifles donated to 3 VA Hospitals in Washington.



Bob Berleen set up and purchased all 5 rifles, had them each engraved with sponsoring PUP Tent, built tool kits for each rifle and provided hard cases for shipping and

storage. This is a great example of our great organization looking into what Veterans need and following through with fundraisers and making it happen!

Photos: Presentation of rifles at Seattle VA, Shooting at National Para-Olympic Games, and Medals won.



January 18, 2018 Visit to Spokane Valley Hospital and Veterans Cemetery.

It was another great visit to a Veterans Hospital to see how they are taking care of our Nation's Heroes. We were pleased to find out that they just put in the library and the residents were the



the ones that got to go and buy the books to stock the library.



The residents are also the ones that are labeling and cataloging the library as well. After our visit at Spokane Valley Hospital we got to

have a tour of the Spokane Veterans Cemetery and learned how they honor our Veterans when they come to their final place of rest.

Chad Hassebroek
Department Surgeon

Hero's In the Ball Park Program

I enjoyed being this years Heroes in the Ballpark Tacoma Chairman. It was exciting working with the Rainiers and adding new things to this great program. We were able to work out having the right field party deck and grass berm this year, keeping the Soldiers, Airman, Families and VFW all together and able to easily interact. We also had, included in our package, 90 minutes of all you can eat BBQ with Burgers, Hot Dogs, Chips and Salads. We had beer, wine, soda and drinks included throughout the game as well.



The families could easily watch their kids in the play area next to the party deck and a staff member was there to pitch on the mini baseball field. VFW and Auxiliary members were mixed in with members from Warrior Transition Battalion, JBLM Active Duty Soldiers, Airman and their families. It was great to see all of the interaction and conversations that went on before and during the game.



Something new this year was we were able to do fundraising at this event for the first time, so that was exciting and something to build on in the future.

We had an information table set up on the concourse right in front of the entrance to the ballpark. We had our 2 VFW PA announcements made during the game, but this year I was able to work with the Rainiers and get two 1-minute videos instead of the two 30-second videos from the past.

Working with National VFW, I was able to get updated VFW Videos to play one just before first pitch and the second in the 4th inning.



The VFW presented the colors for the National Anthem consisting of 2 VFW members and 2 Active Duty Soldiers and looked sharp doing it!

Our VFW Department of Washington Senior Vice Linda Fairbank escorted First Sergeant Scott Kelsey who just returned with his unit 5-3 Field Artillery Battalion from deployment to Operation Inherent



Resolve. His son, daughter and nephew were able to go down on the field behind home plate to watch their dad throw out the first pitch. They were very excited. Our very own VFW voice, Jim Daly, sang "God Bless America" during the 7th inning stretch for the second year and as always, sounded great!

The event culminated to an awesome firework display at the end of the game. Thank you, Comrade Commander, for selecting me to be Chairman for the Heroes in the Ballpark Tacoma program this year. I truly enjoyed working with everyone involved with the program. I am looking

forward to the Heroes in the Ballpark Spokane in August where Wes Anderson is the Chairman.

So far, we have had 45 VFW Posts and 1 District donate \$7475.00, 21 VFW Auxiliaries donate \$3,366.00 and 3 Individuals donate \$225.00 for a grand total of \$11,066.00. We are \$164.50 away from funding both Tacoma and Spokane Heroes in the Ballpark 2018. We have 108 Posts and 69 Auxiliaries in the State, so if you haven't made your donation this year, please do. I will have certificates at Department Convention for all who donate to the program.

Chad Hassebroek

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”

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 Spokane, please send your number of tickets needed and money to department. The cut off dates for Donations was May 15, 2018. The cut off date for the tickets to the Spokane Indians game is August 17th.



*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!

<p>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</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New this year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•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 <p style="text-align: center;">\$4.00 of each ticket sold will be donated to the National Veterans and Military Services Program</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Post and Auxiliary Donations to the Heroes in the Ball Park Program 2017-2018</p> <p>Donations can be made from your Relief Fund</p> <p>Cash or Check Payable to VFW Department of Washington (memo Heroes in the Ball Park)</p> <p>VFW Department of Washington Heroes in the Ball Park donation is a Post requirement to attain All-State Post</p> <p>Your donations to the program will support 500 Air Force, Soldiers, Military Members and their Families to a morale boosting night</p> <p>Military and Family at Spokane Indians receive a ticket to the game and \$10 Indian Bucks</p>
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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

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