



The Veterans News

Department of Washington Quarterly Newsletter

December 2017



Welcome to our very first online edition of the State News Letter called the Veterans News This will be a quarterly news letter just one more tool to help keep you informed of what what is happening in your Department.

for 2 though his foundation Outdoor venture out of Astoria OR. I will use the same criteria that is in place for the hotels.

Also for the top recruiter hotel accommodations paid for at the State Convention in Bremerton. Once again thank you for all your hard work that you continue to do.

John Bradburn
State Commander

Happy Holidays!

Thank you for all that you have done this year for Veterans, Active Services members, their families and your communities. Membership is the life blood of our organization. Without you how would the many things you do to help others get done. Who will come next into your post to fill your shoes?



The Membership Goals this year are to Build a strong organization for the future and to Work together to achieve the VFW's goals. At www.vfw.org you will find training materials to help you succeed in your quest to help lead the VFW into the future. There are tips for recruiting new members, training videos, membership applications & brochures that can be printed. The "VFW Priority Goals" brochure and the "VFW Fact Sheet" are two of the best.

When talking to a prospective member first try to find what areas of the VFW might appeal to them. Are they in need of filing a claim or updating an existing claim? Do they have children who could benefit from the essay programs? Are activities that benefit active services members of interest? Are the

First, I want to take the time wish everyone a Very Happy Blessed Christmas and A Happy New Year. This is a definite time of reflection for the things we have accomplished over this last year, both personally and professionally and together as a department we are working for all veterans and their families.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Spokane at the Mid-Winter Conference January 19-20, 2018, so that we all can welcome Our Voice of Democracy Students who have put so much work in their Speeches. They have presented to both your Post, Districts and finally to the Department to move forward to the National level. Also, I am Looking forward to meeting the Teachers for the Teacher of Year Award's who help inspire the students and prepare our future leaders.

Let's keep working membership to help us all grow in numbers so that we all can achieve our goals which should be 100% and don't forget the recruiting incentives that are in place with drawing to a 2-night stay for either Shilo Ocean Shores or The Coachman Inn Oak Harbor 1 ticket for every 5 new or reinstated members.

I am please to announced that John Kiser, has also donated a fishing trip during the fall Salmon Season

Community programs your post participates in of interest? Is the work the VFW does in Congress of interest to them?

By providing information on what the VFW has done and continues to do for Active Service Members, Veterans, their families and our Communities we can demonstrate why it is worth while to belong to this organization.

The VFW Fact Sheet includes the VFW has:

- 1,922 VA accredited representatives helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned;
- Helped Veterans recoup \$7 Billion in earned benefits from the Veterans Administration last year, which includes 1.2 Billion in new claims filed in 2016;
- Testified before Congress 26 times in the last 12 months and has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries;
- Awarded \$7.9 Million to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis from the Unmet Needs Program.
- Hosted over 2 Million service members & their families through the Military Assistance Program (MAP grants) since 2005.
- Awarded to more than 825 Veterans & Service members over \$3.6 Million through the “Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship” in the last 4 years.
- Donated annually \$52.1 Million to local community service projects by VFW members.

It is always good to keep some of these facts and an application with you so that when you have the opportunity to talk with a fellow veteran about why they should join our organization you will be ready to seal the deal.

Does your Post have a newsletter, email, phone bank or an outreach team that visits fellow members? In many cases, we have lost touch with

our members. We need to know who they are and what their needs are. Let’s get back to basics—our first priority is taking care of our members and the veteran community as a whole.

Please do not hesitate to ask for help from your Post, District or Department leadership. The Membership team is available to assist you with your membership projects.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
Linda Fairbank
State Sr Vice Commander

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

Comrades,

Greetings! This being the end of the calendar year, it is fitting that we end it with articles from all your Department Officers. Although this hasn’t happened since we sent out newsletters (many moons ago) it’s some member’s only way of keeping up with what our Department is doing. 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.

A Very Exciting Day for Building 9

I was honored to be a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening the Women's wing of building 9 for homeless female veterans.

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!

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; as I believe the articles from your Department line officers should be helpful. What I will do, however, is I'll try to motivate you to focus on those we help. Know that 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 not 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!

May 2018 bring a year of focus, happiness and togetherness. 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



We were joined by other service organizations as well as senators and representatives of the state. It was shown to all in attendance that the VFW and Auxiliary were there to support and assist with this new program.



Our organization had the greatest turn out (14 VFW/AUX) of all the veteran and other organizations attending this important and historical event.



The facility staff gave a briefing on the new wing and the programs offered there for female veterans. After the ceremony, we received a tour of the rooms in the wing and were invited for cake cutting, snacks and refreshments.

Chad Hassebroek
Department Surgeon

Retsil Veterans Home Visit
July 12, 2017

This year's visit to Retsil Veterans Home was very exciting. We were greeted by John Rust (Department Jr Vice) who volunteers at Retsil. He introduced us to the staff and we were given a full tour of the Home.



We saw the activity areas, rehab area and residential areas of the facility. The staff were first class and take great care of our veterans living there. They offer many recreational activities for the residents and have a monthly calendar of events taking place.



I presented a check to Retsil from the Department of Washington VFW to assist with their needs in the Music for Memory Program. This program is working well with the residents there and greatly improving their quality of life.



Residents or family members create the playlist of songs that were meaningful to the veterans living there and they listen to them and respond to the music they hear.



presented a check from the Department of Washington VFW Auxiliary to assist with their needs. We followed our tour and meetings with dinner in the dining facility there at the Home.

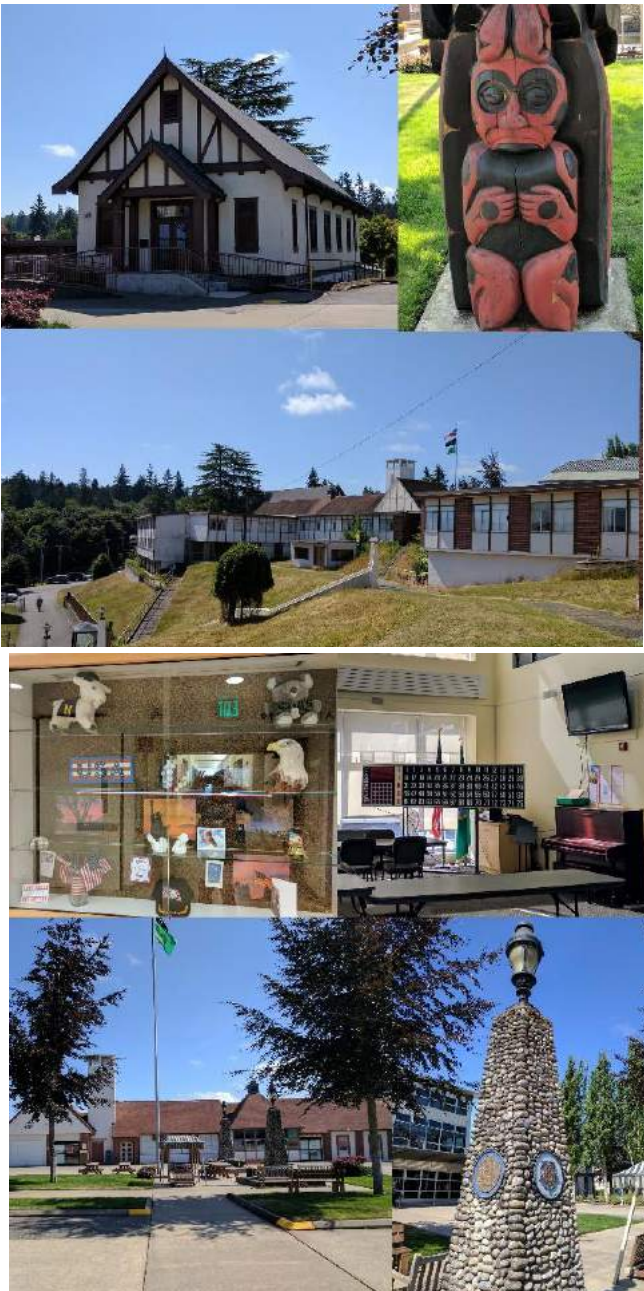
Chad Hassebroek
Department Surgeon

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Editor: Jim Daly
(360) 581-5153

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

Laurie Lukas (Department Auxiliary President) and Elaine Taylor (Department Hospital Chairman) also



ADDITIONAL RECRUITING
Fall Season Salmon Fishing Trip for Two
in Astoria OR.
With
Comrade John Kiser



For every 5 New or Reinstated Member's
you get 1 Ticket
THIS COULD BE YOU!!!!



**VFW - Department of Washington
71st Annual Mid-Winter Conference
Spokane RL
January 19 & 20, 2017**



TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, January 19

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Post Service Officer Training – Corbin Room
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Recruiter Training – Finch Room
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Registration – Tower Pre-Function
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM	VFW Office (banquet tickets) – Conference Room
4:00 PM	Department Line Officers Meeting – Commander's Suite
5:00 PM	Council of Administration Meeting – Ballroom D
7:00 PM	Reception for National Representative – Commander's Suite

Saturday, January 20

6:30 AM – 8:00 AM	Past State Commanders Breakfast – Skyline 1
7:00 AM – 2:00 PM	VFW Office (banquet tickets) – Conference Room
7:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Registration – lobby Hallway
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Joint Opening Session – Audubon Manito
	Intro of Guests and Dignitaries – Commander John Bradburn President Laurie Lukas
9:45 AM – 11:45 AM	VFW General Session – Audubon Manito
	Roll Call – Fred Green, Adjutant
	Legislative, Federal- Steve Stetson
	Membership – Jim Weaver – Chairman
	Service Officer Report - Bill Brown
	Veterans & Family Support – Jammy Tighe, Chairman
	Junior Activities – John Rust, Jr. Vice Commander
	Special Olympics – Larry Weldon
	Scouting – CD Seegars
	Patriot's Pen/ Essay – Darren Hughes
	Voice of Democracy – Eric Roloff
	Teacher Awards – Bob Hitchcock
	Hospital – Chad Hassebroek, State Surgeon
	ByLaws - Glenn Albert
	Audit Committee – Corey Freed, 1 Year
	Inspections – BO Brown
	Public Relations - Jim Daly

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	Community Activities –	Don Wischmann
	Americanism/ Loyalty Day –	Ted Streete
	Veteran of the Year –	John Beam
	Safety, Law and Order –	Mike Brown
	Chaplain –	John Beam
	Emergency Disaster/Building -	John Michael
10:00 AM – 11:45 AM	Quartermaster class – Finch Room	John Michael
10:00 AM – 11:45 AM	Service Division Meeting – Corbin Room	Mike Peterson

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM Break for Lunch

1:00 PM	POW/MIA –	Richard Angeli
	Legislative –	Steve Stetson
	Buddy Poppy –	Doug White
	National Home –	Jim Traner
	Homeless Veterans -	Randy Hahn
	USO -	Ray Fairbank
3:00 PM – 3:45 PM	Scouting Meeting –	CD Seegars – after general session

4:45 PM -5:45 PM Voice of Democracy Students Reception – Ballroom D

5:30 PM General Seating for Dinner – Audubon Manito AB

5:45 PM Escort of Students into the banquet hall by Districts

6:00 PM Voice of Democracy Banquet
 Jr. Vice Commander John Rust presiding.

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE
SPOKANE, WA
JANUARY 19 – 20, 2018

Hotel Reservation Information

Spokane Hotel RL at the Park
303 W North River Dr
Spokane, WA 99201

800-Red Lion (733-5466)
Group Name: VFW Mid-Winter Conference

\$90 per night + - 1 – 2 People
\$100 per night + - 3 – 4 People
All rates subject to State and City taxes (12%) & Tourism fees (\$2 per night)

Check in time is 3:00 PM - Checkout at 12 noon.
Early departure fee = \$50

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 19, 2017

A refundable deposit of \$40 by cash or card, for incidentals will be required at time of check-in.

****CANCELLATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS
BEFORE CHECK-IN****

You must make your own reservations

Except all ADA rooms must be reserved through Department
253-922-2114 ext. 0

Allowances: Crockpots are allowed to be used in the hospitality rooms.

The Hotel has a curtesy shuttle to and from the Spokane Airport if needed.

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS & IT'S AUXILIARY
 2018 MID-WINTER CONVENTION
Saturday, January 20th, 2018
SEATING - 5:30 PM

PLATED DINNER OPTIONS

Entrées: (S) Grilled Flank Steak

with garlic crushed potatoes with seasonal Vegies

Or (C) Herb Crusted breast

with garlic crushed potatoes with seasonal Vegies

Vegetarian (V) Roasted Vegetable Risotto w/ roasted pepper cream

All meals come with Rolls & salad

Beverages: Water, Regular & Decaf Coffee and Tea

Desert

\$35.00 Per Person

Reservation Deadline January 5th

TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!

Name _____ Phone _____ Post/Aux _____ Dist _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

I would like to reserve the following:

Number of Banquet Tickets _____ For a total of \$ _____ Enclosed is check(s) # _____

Credit Card Information: Type: Visa / Mastercard / Discover / American Express

Card # _____ Expires: _____ Security Code: _____

If requesting a full table, all seats must be paid for at the same time, otherwise same table seating is not guaranteed.

8 people per table. Please list all names:

Name _____	entree` choice _____	Name _____	entree` choice _____
1. _____	S/ C/ V	5. _____	S/ C/ V
2. _____	S/ C/ V	6. _____	S/ C/ V
3. _____	S/ C/ V	7. _____	S/ C/ V
4. _____	S/ C/ V	8. _____	S/ C/ V

Make Checks or Money Orders payable to VFW, Dept. of WA

Send Reservation Form with payment to:

VFW Dept. of Washington - **ATTN: Robin**
 5213 Pacific Hwy. E, Fife, WA 98424