



**VFW & Ladies Auxiliary
District I
Department of Washington
February 2013**



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Upcoming Events Calendar

February 1st	Deadline for Newsletter of the Year competition
March 1st	Deadline for Scout of the Year
March 16th	District 1 Auxiliary Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser
March 25th	Deadline to submit a list of Post's deceased members (April 1, 2012 to March 25, 2013) to Jim Raymond, District Chaplain
March 30th	District 1 Meeting —Alderwood Boys and Girls Club—Lunch 12 PM Meeting 1 PM.
May 18th	District 1 Convention —Alderwood Boys and Girls Club—Lunch 12 PM Meeting 1 PM
June 5th-8th	Department Convention—Yakima
July 20-25th	National Convention—Louisville, KY

Honor Guard Volunteers Sought

With the number of veterans dying, there are constant requests by their families for honor guards. At the District meeting in January, Marty Spani requested assistance from the other Posts in having an adequate number of honor guard participants as the existing honor guard is worn out from the constant demand. As of now, Post 1040 and Post 921 are carrying the burden of the load for non-VFW veterans' funerals. I would suggest that each Post, depending on size, have 1 to 3 members assist in the honor guard. In essence, this would make the honor guard a District honor guard and would insure that all veterans, regardless of location or VFW or AL affiliation, would have honor guard representation at their funeral service. Marty's email address is spani06@comcast.net. He can provide you will details as to Honor Guard uniforms, etc. Anything you can do to help out would be appreciated.

District I Raffle

I'm happy to report that the raffle was very successful. We grossed \$2,320 and after expenses netted \$1,720. The winner was Karen Huggin from Monroe and when I called her she was in utter disbelief. Her husband called the Post back to make sure someone wasn't pulling her leg. I want to thank everyone who helped with the raffle. Post 2100 hosted the drawing. I shouldn't start pointing out specific folks because so many worked to make it success, but I would like to thank Don Wischmann from #2100, Darryl Anderson from #751 and Denise Watkins-Calosso from #9417 who sold a lot of tickets. I am sure there are others from other Posts that I'm missing and for that, I apologize. The result of a successful raffle means we will be able to fully support our Teachers of the Year and the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Youth Essay contests.

VOD, PP, & Youth Essay Winners

As most of you know, our District meeting in January was dedicated to inviting the various Posts' winners to lunch where awards were issued. Jim and Marcela Raymond were in charge of selecting the Patriot Pen and Youth Essay winners while Don and Carol Williams selected the Voice of Democracy winner. Youth essay winners were: 3rd grade First place winner Abby Varadt/Majerle from Gold Bar; 4th grade First place Ellia Hayes, Snohomish; 5th grade First place Elijah Pfeifer. Patriotic Pen winners were 6th grade First place Emma Higgins, Everett; 7th grade First place Hollie Hutchison; and 8th grade First place went to Lydia Brenay Hawkins from Everett.

District Website

Minutes of the last District meeting can be found at www.vfwwadistrict1.org. Contact commander@vfwwadistrict1.org for the password to view them. Also available, are the current and past newsletters for the District.

Around the District

Post 1561 has settled on a Post meeting location. Their meetings will now be held at the Arlington High School ROTC portable. That is at 8821 Crown Ridge Blvd Arlington, WA 98223. The Auxiliary will meet at the same location this month.

Krist Huseby, Department Commander, will be attending Post 8870's meeting on February 8th to present Comrade Mike Reagan with the first of three annual checks for \$25,000 from the VFW Foundation in support of his work on the Fallen Heroes Project. To date, he has drawn (without cost to the families) 3,200 portraits service members killed in action primarily in Iraq and Afghanistan. If any Post would like Mike to speak at a meeting, I am quite sure he would make time to do so.

Another thanks to Doug White, Post 9417, in organizing a membership drive at the Monroe Gun Show as well as Danny Houghton and Elmer Johnson for sticking around the entire day. They even qualified for combat pay when a weapon was discharged accidentally at the show. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Thank you to Post 2100 and Don Wischmann for making his Post available for the Raffle drawing and serving as a central collection point. And speaking of Post 2100, they are hosting a Super Bowl Party. If you didn't win the big screen TV, they have one so drop by and support their Post.

Poppy Orders

Just a note to those Posts who haven't ordered Buddy Poppies. It takes a couple of months for them to be delivered. I recommend you get your order in ASAP. Memorial Day seems a long way off but it has a way of creeping up on you.

There seems to be an attitude among some Posts that Buddy Poppies are an "overhead" item. They are not. They provide a method of raising funds for your Relief Fund and, just as importantly, provide you an opportunity to raise your visibility in your community.

District I Teacher Selected as Department Elementary Teacher of the Year



Susan Newman, has been named as the state's Elementary Teacher of the Year. Susan, who is a 5th grade teacher at Oak Heights Elementary School had been nominated by her Principal, Susan Ardisson and sponsored by VFW Post #8870. She was previously named District I Teacher of the Year, which qualified her for Washington State consideration. Susan was selected for this honor from nominees submitted by local VFW Posts throughout the state.

Susan is being recognized for her on-going efforts to promote American history, traditions and its institutions, teach and reinforce citizenship education topics, and promote democratic values and beliefs. She is the daughter of a retired Army officer, and it is her love for her country that has motivated her to promote responsible citizenship and to honor those who have made and are making sacrifices in defense of our nation. Her passion for American history is evident in her classroom and the learning activities in which her students are engaged. For the past 20 years, Susan has been the driving force behind the annual Veterans Day assemblies at Oak Heights. These programs honor veterans as well as active duty personnel in the Oak Heights school-community and feature student participation in a variety of skits, plays, essays, poetry, and patriotic music. She also spearheads letter writing campaigns to local VA hospitals and active duty personnel. Susan has taught for over 40 years and is a graduate of the University of Alabama where she earned both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees.

Mid-Winter Conference Notes

We had a fair representation from District I at Mid-Winter this year. Don Wischmann, Post 2100; Denise Watkins-Calosso, Post 9417; Ron Haley and John Beam, Post 1040; Jim Traner and Don Whedon, Post 8870; and Danny Houghton and Elmer Johnson, Post 921, It was actually and enjoyable conference. One day long, concise (for the most part) reports by committee chairs, and, of course, recognition of the Voice of Democracy winners and Teachers of the Year including Susan Newman from District I.

The big news is a proposed \$10 increase in annual dues which will be voted on at the National Convention in July. The motivating factor is to increase support of the Departments' Service Officers. I have mixed emotions on the increase and will need a lot more facts before coming to any conclusion. However, once an increase is on the table, you know it will eventually pass in some form at some time. They simply don't go away. It may be time to urge your Continuous members to sign up for a Life Membership.

There will be another "Heroes in the Ballpark" game at Cheney Stadium in July. VFW is trying to bring 500 Wounded Warriors and their families to the park free of charge and asks each Post to consider a \$100 contribution to the project. I'd like each of your Posts to carefully consider the request. The cause is good, its local, and anything we can do for both the veterans and their families should take priority. If you want to participate, send your donation check made payable to VFW Heroes in the Ballpark and send it to Department HQ in Fife.

The new themes for VOD, PP, and Youth Essays are published. VOD will be "Why I'm Optimistic About our Nation's Future", PP is "What Patriotism Means to Me"; and the Youth Essay is "My American Hero is"

Ted Streete, our incoming Commander for 2013-14, has some very nifty blue denim shirts with the Marine Corp monument as a patch. I have to admit, even though I am Army, it isn't a bad looking shirt and I would expect a lot of you Marines want to order one. The cost is \$28 with \$4 if you wish your first name to be added. Let me know if you have an interest and I'll get the flyer to you.

A few Posts are maximizing NMS grants. If you have adopted a unit and want support for food and supplies for a party, etc. contact either Willy Hughes or Don Wischmann as they seem to be two of the Posts who have figured out the paperwork that is required.

A good program not being supported this year by VFW, is Special Olympics. The past Committee Chair can no longer be involved due to health issues. If anyone has a desire to take the position, contact Department.

An age old problem on Community Service Reports was brought up by the Scouting Chair. Make sure you describe what you are doing rather than just saying "Boy Scouts" or "Girl Scouts". Also, remember that Girl Scouts are also eligible for Scout of the Year so include them in any correspondence you send out seeking nominations.

Consider an annual fund raiser for the National Home. Perhaps once a year you can send out a request to your membership along with your newsletter or other correspondence that is being mailed. It shouldn't be much of a burden to the local Posts but will be greatly appreciated by NH.

Last, and not least, is membership. The goal in membership is to achieve 95% by Mid-Winter. Only one Post, 7511, has done that and as a whole, our membership numbers are down substantially from last year. I'm not sure why it is so low, but I would like to see Krist Huseby achieve a 100% for Department since Carlos came so close last year.

One final comment from Mid-Winter. There will be a couple of hotly contested races in June. Dick Whipple, Department Quartermaster, is being challenged by Carlos Almeda. For Surgeon, two good candidates are running, Linda Fairbank, District 2 Commander, and John Bradburn, District 5 Commander. A third candidate is also running but was unable to attend Mid-Winter due to a death in the family. The Surgeon will be Commander in 4 years so it is important to attend the Convention in June and talk to the candidates before the election takes place.

The Commander's Corner

I want to thank all of the Posts for their efforts in supporting the Raffle. New ideas sometimes don't pan out, but I have always felt that if you didn't try something new once in a while you or your organization could easily become stagnant. I am happy to say that District 1 certainly is not stagnant. Across the board, we have Post Commanders and Post members that care about their Posts and VFW as a whole and that makes my job a whole lot easier.

We will probably win the District Newsletter competition of the year award at the Convention in June. I was talking to Ray Fairbank at Mid-Winter and we are the only District with a newsletter. I can't emphasize enough how important it is for every Post (and District) to have some type of newsletter for their membership. It doesn't need to be fancy or mailed monthly. Conveying to your members what your Post is doing lets every member take ownership even if they are deployed, have moved to another state, or simply unable to attend meetings due to health issues. I know that #1561 puts out an email newsletter that is very informative. If anyone else is doing a newsletter by print or email, make sure you copy me on it.

I'm moving into my busy season. I've tried to attend as many meetings as possible and I've come to know many of your Post members. However, for the next couple of months, I will have my hands full with tax returns. If I'm not at your meeting, it's not personal. It simply means I'm trying to take care of my clients.

The President's Corner

Mid-Winter has come and gone. The awards I picked up for you will be handed out at our March 30th District meeting. This meeting is our annual District Memorial service. Please send the list of your deceased members from March 2012 to current date to the District Secretary Marcella Raymond at P.O. Box 1352 Granite Falls, WA 98252 or to Goflo2004@comcast.net. Practice for the Memorial is set for 11:30 just prior to the District meeting lunch. Presidents and Commanders from all District one Posts should be there. We want to do a good job this year. Our District Auxiliary Chili Cook-off fund raiser is coming along great but we could still use some more contestants. The cook-off is on March 16th at the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club where we hold District meetings. Setup is at noon; contestant check in is at 12:30 Judging at 1:30, and chili feed at 2:00. Attention readers: there will be a book sale also starting at 1:00. As you can see we are a very busy District. Come join us for a meeting or a fun event at 19719-24th Ave West in Lynnwood.

In Service to Veterans. Jan Beam District One President

Housekeeping Stuff

Post Commanders—please bring your reports that are missing on the Tally Sheet up to date. We are slowly making progress but a few Posts are still delinquent.

If you have a fund raising event that your Post is sponsoring in the next 3 or 4 months, be sure to let me know so that we can publish it to the District. Make sure you tell me the time and place.

The Scout of the Year deadline is quickly approaching. It seems like we never get a candidate from our District. Remember that Girl Scouts are eligible as well as Boy Scouts but you will need to get the process going fairly quickly to ensure your candidate's paperwork is complete and submitted to Department.

Post & Auxiliary Meetings (same time and place unless otherwise indicated)

If you change the date or time of your meeting, please let both District and Department know of the change.

Gay Jones Post #921

Meeting Place: Snohomish Boys and Girls Club
402-2nd Street
Snohomish, WA 98290-3097

Meeting Date: 3rd Saturday - 1:00 P.M.

Walter A. Deebach Post #1040

Meeting Place: Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
19719—24th Ave. W.
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Meeting Date: 1st Thursday - 7:00 PM

Boyer Daniel Post #1561

Meeting Place: Arlington High School ROTC portable. That is at 8821 Crown Ridge Blvd Arlington, WA 98223

Meeting Date: 1st Tuesday—6:30PM

Old Guard Post #2100

Meeting Place: Everett Post Home
2711 Oakes Ave.
Everett, WA 98201
425-252-2100

Meeting Date: Last Thursday of month 6:30 PM—Auxiliary 2nd Monday—6:30PM

Stoehr Glidden Post #2554

Meeting Place: United Methodist Church
211 Birch Ave.
Sultan, WA 98294

Meeting Date: 2nd Thursday -7:00 PM (Changed from 7:30PM)

Monroe #7511

Meeting Place: I.O.O.F. Hall
610 So. Lewis St.
Monroe, WA 98272

Meeting Date: 2nd Thursday - 12:00PM

Edmonds Post #8870

Meeting Place: Edmonds Senior Center
220 Railroad Ave.
Edmonds, WA. 98020

Meeting Date: 2nd Friday-12:30 PM (Lunch at 11:45AM)

Martin-Osterholtz Post #9417

Meeting Place: Gold Bar Post Home
301-3rd St. P.O. Box 663
Gold Bar, WA. 98251

Meeting Date: 1st Thursday - 6:00 PM-Auxiliary 1st Wednesday—4:00PM

Tally Sheet & Membership—as of January 25th

audits									Club
Post	bylaws	insp.	990's	june	Sept	Dec	poppies	Bonds	bonds
921	5/22/95	10/20	11	10/2	11/26		2,000	90k	
1040	12/13/12	11/1	11	7/9	10/11	1/7	2,000	60k/3k	
1561	11/2/10	10/2	11	7/30	11/8			90k	
2100	Nat'l 1/9	10/25	11	9/20	11/20		1,000	50k/3k/3k	3k
2554	3/30/04	11/29	11	7/30			1,000	30k/30k	
7511	5/22/01	11/8	11	9/21	12/21	1/14	500	15k/3k	
8870	3/8/07	10/12	11	9/5	10/17	1/9	20,000	35k/ 35k	
9417	3/27/02	10/4	11	7/11	10/11	1/8		10k/8k	

CSR

Post	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
921	6/8	8/9	8/9	9/10	10/10	11/9	12/5	1/10	
1040	6/8	7/6	8/3	9/7	10/5	11/2	12/3	1/4	
1561	6/11	7/11	8/13	9/11	10/12	11/10	12/27	1/11	
2100	8/20	7/17	8/15	9/7	10/1	11/5	12/10	1/2	
2554	9/18	9/18	9/18	9/18					
7511	11/19	11/19	11/19	11/19	11/19	11/19	1/10	1/10	
8870	5/22	6/14	7/26	8/15	9/27	10/19	11/21	12/28	
9417	1/19	8/13	8/13	1/19	1/19	1/19	1/19	1/8	

HSP

Post	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
921	6/8	8/9	8/9	9/10	10/10	11/9	12/5	1/10
1040	6/8	7/6	8/3	9/7	10/5	11/2	11/30	1/4
1561	6/11	7/11	8/13	9/11	10/12	11/10	12/12	1/11
2100	8/20	7/17	8/15	9/7	10/1	11/5	12/10	1/2
2554	9/18	9/18	9/18	9/18				
7511	11/30		11/30					
8870	5/22	6/15	7/26	8/15	9/27	10/19	11/21	12/28
9417		11/8	11/8	1/19	1/19	1/19	1/19	1/19

Chap

Post	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Notes
921	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
1040	x	x	x	x	x	x		
1561	x	x	x	x	x			
2100	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
2554	x	x	x	x	x		x	
7511	x		x					
8870	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
9417	x	x	x	x		x		

Post	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent
921	55	1	0	2	58	66	87.87%
1040	198	7	5	51	261	310	84.19%
1561	99	9	4	31	143	144	99.30%
2100	733	5	3	63	804	848	94.81%
2554	28	0	0	4	32	35	91.42%
7511	30	0	1	4	35	35	100.00%
8870	144	11	2	41	198	214	92.52%
9417	51	0	0	8	59	65	90.76%
	1338	33	15	204	1590	1717	92.60%