



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Upcoming Events for the 2012-13 Year

TBA	Meeting of Post Commanders for 2013-14 and District Commander
May 18th	District 1 Convention — Alderwood Boys and Girls Club—Lunch 12 PM Meeting 1 PM
June 1st	Post Election Reports due to National Headquarters
June 5th-8th	Department Convention—Yakima
July 20-25th	National Convention—Louisville, KY

District & Department Delegates

I thought I would remind everyone that Section 222 of the National By Laws provides that Posts shall elect delegates and alternates to District conventions at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District convention at which District officers are to be elected: one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election. Delegates and alternates to the Department conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department convention. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election. Since the District Convention is in May, almost every Post will need to elect delegates during their April meetings. Likewise, with the Department Convention—the delegates will need to be elected in May. The one exception is Post 2100 who meets late in month and they have been informed that they need to make their elections two meetings in advance in order to meet the 30 day rule. Remember to document your delegate selection in your minutes. There will be several contested elections so make sure your Post's vote(s) are counted.

VFW & Ladies Auxiliary
District 1 Dep't of Washington
April 2013

www.vfwwadistrict1.org



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

March 30 is Vietnam Veterans' Day

While this is a bit after the fact, the Washington Legislature has deemed the 30th as Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Day. About the only thing of significance is the POW/MIA flag is required to be flown by all public entities. Since the 30th is on a Saturday and a lot of the agencies are closed i.e. the schools, I'm not sure the average citizen will even notice. However, for those of us who came back on a "Freedom Bird", it is a day for us to remember our trip home and remember those who didn't come back with us.

District I Meeting

Our Annual Memorial Service was held on Saturday, March 30th remembering the Comrades and Sisters we lost this last year. Unfortunately, the bell was rung far too many times during the service as each name was read. We had a packed house at the meeting with the Department Commander, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Quartermaster, and Chaplin attending. In addition, we had candidates for the Surgeon and Quartermaster position attend. I hate to see contested elections particularly when all the candidates are superbly qualified individuals. It's good for VFW but certainly hard to cast a vote. I had a sample of Department's shirt for next year and had a number of folks approach me after the meeting about order forms. If you have folks that are interested, there was an order form given to each Post Commander. If you need additional forms, let me know and I'll send it out to you. I want to thank Post 2100 for hosting the luncheon. After the 5th or 6th person made a raving comment about the meal, it was apparent that we would be seeing more visitors from Department in the future. I also want to thank Post 1040 for their assistance this year in providing the space for the District meetings and helping in the set-up and takedown. Likewise, their Honor Guard did an excellent job at the Memorial Service. I also want to thank Jan Beam for being a great President this year.

Around the District

Post 2100 hosted an open house on St. Paddy's day. They gave it a heck of a try but the turn out was disappointing. In looking back at it, I think we all agreed we need to get the word out via all media outlets. Nevertheless, Post Commander Don Wischmann and his Post deserves a tip of the hat for giving it a good try.

Post 1561 was featured in the Everett Herald and Arlington Times for their recognition of the Public Service Officer of the Year, Detective Mike Philips of the Arlington Police Department.

Post 921 is busy getting VOD, PP, and Youth Essay information out to the schools in the Snohomish area. They are experimenting to see if the teachers can then incorporate it into their planning for the upcoming year.

Post 1040's Honor Guard has been busy and needs a helping hand. I've included a more extensive article about their work.

The tally sheets are showing a lot less blanks. However, there are a couple of rows that need filing in so if you are responsible for the missing reports, sharpen the Number 2 and file your reports with Department.

Aquasox Game—August 17th

I have 3 Posts that have gotten back to me and we are up to about 35 members and family members attending VFW Night at the Park. Post 1040's honor guard has volunteered to present the colors and we will have to figure out who will throw out the first pitch (preferably someone who can throw it 60'2"). Following the game will be a fireworks display and the Aquasox do a fine job in lighting up the sky. Send me an email with the number of tickets you would like, and I will arrange to get them out to you. Remember, this is a family affair so bring your spouse, significant other, and kids or grandkids. This is a great opportunity to mix it up with other folks from other Posts so the more the merrier.

Post 2100's Veteran Museum

The Seattle Veterans Museum was tossed from their location in Seattle and looking for a new home. At a recent Post meeting the suggestion was made to make space available in Post 2100's Home for the displaced museum. At the recent open house hosted by 2100, the exhibits were open to the public. While small, they are the first attempt to have a veterans museum in Snohomish County. It is a credit to the Post that they have taken the first step in having a museum dedicated to veteran's memorabilia. If anyone has stuff tucked away and would like to make it available, let Post Commander Don Wischmann know and he will put you in contact with the curator. On another note, Paul Allen's Historic Flight museum just opened another wing if you are interested in taking in a Sherman tank and military vehicles.

Honor Guard Seeking Volunteers

Members of Lynnwood VFW Post 1040's Honor Guard not only provide Military Honors for eligible Fallen Warriors of all services throughout the year when called upon, but are also involved in Washington States Memorial Services conducted monthly at Washelli Cemetery in Seattle and Acacia Cemetery in Bothell. The Honor Guard has been performing military honors for the past two years at these two cemeteries in association with the Washington State National Guard requirement to provide honors for all those veterans who for whatever reasons did not receive them. The two man National Guard Team perform the reading of all the names being honored on a specific day followed by the ringing of a bell after each name and the folding of the presentation flag. The Lynnwood VFW Post Honor Guard has the duty of firing the last volley and our bugler playing of taps. Presently, the cemetery honors are conducted on the first Monday at Washelli Cemetery and third Monday of the month at Acacia. Members of this fine group of volunteers consist of Commander Marti Spani, Cpt. Frank Martinez, Lt. John Zambrano, Bugler Glenn Ledbetter, Elmer Johnson, Brian Seguin, Bob Kenner, Virg Prodigalidad, Richard Coonradt, Rich Richter and Golden Cole. If anyone is interested in joining this fine group of volunteers, contact Frank Martinez at 4325-697-4102 or at frank-ntinam@fronteir.com. Uniforms are also provided at no cost to the volunteer.

Post #8870 to Sponsor Special Event by Fred Apgar

VFW Post #8870, Edmonds, has organized a special program to recognize the wonderful work of one of its members, Mike Reagan. Mike will discuss his work with the Fallen Heroes Foundation. The Foundation, which he created almost ten years ago, provides hand drawn portraits of our nation's Fallen Heroes; those men and women, who while serving in the military, have sacrificed their lives in our nation's War Against Terrorism. The presentation will be held at Third Place Books, in Lake Forest Park, and will begin at 7:00 PM.

To date, the Fallen Heroes Project has given away more than 3300 portraits, which has brought untold comfort to these Gold Star families. Michael completes two portraits every day, and what has now become his passion, finds him in his Edmonds studio seven days a week.

The April 10 presentation is sponsored by VFW Post # 8870, of which Mike is a member. Comrades, friends, and family members of VFW Posts are encouraged to attend this special event. It will be a moving experience, to hear Mike, a patriotic and selfless combat veteran, discuss his wonderful work. Your attendance will demonstrate your support of Mike and his great work and will be greatly appreciated.

The Commander's Corner—Jim Traner

I plan on throwing my hat into the ring for another shot at District Commander. When I took this job, I had no intention in serving more than one year. As most of you Post Commanders, Auxiliary Presidents, Past Commanders or Past Presidents know, it takes a year to figure the job out. I'm not saying I have it totally figured out, but I know a heck of lot more than I did a year ago. We spent a lot of energy on some non-productive stuff that should never have happened and we will address that by making the District's School of Instruction even more nuts and bolts than it was last year. On the plus side, we have some Posts that are making big strides in their efforts to become a force in their communities and to their veteran population and it has been gratifying in watching it occur. Lagging membership troubles me when I know that VFW can have a significant impact on veterans receiving their rightful benefits and improving their quality of life. On a final note, it's been fun attending the various Post meetings and getting to know my fellow comrades from around Snohomish County that I would never otherwise have met. There are a lot of shining stars in every Post. With tax season nearly behind me, I look forward to hitting the road again.

The President's Corner-Jan Beam

My thanks to those that supported our Chili Cook off. 1st place went to Mary Davenport from Aux. 2100. 2nd place was Richard Clark from Post 1040, and 3rd place was Carol Williams from Aux. 1561. They were given Fred Meyer gift cards as their prizes. A total of \$ 202.20 was taken in from the chili eaters and the book sale. A good time was had by those that came. The left over books were donated to a couple of local nursing homes with the greatest amount going to Orting Solders Home. Remember our May 18th meeting is our District One convention when we will elect our District Officers for 2013-14. Our Standing Rules will also be voted on. If you have any changes or ideas for them that's the time to make your voice heard. My best wishes for the incoming Officers and thanks to my Officers and Chairmen this year. Best Wishes to my Commander Jim in his next endeavor and thanks for standing by me this past year.

Honor Flight—Brian Seguin

At the District Meeting on March 30th, Brian gave an update on the Honor Flight Network. I asked him to provide additional information to me and I would place it in the newsletter. I chose to put this piece in as it is personal and I think conveys the true spirit of the Honor Flight. I would suggest that any Post wishing to send a WWII veteran to Washington DC contact Brian directly and work with him. He has provided the link to their website, but he has a lot of personal experience in arranging these trips so it would probably be beneficial to tap into his knowledge.

I am a volunteer with the Honor Flight Network Headquartered in Springfield, Ohio, whose current mission is to transport America's WWII Veterans and any Veteran with a terminal disease (Their Last Chance (TLC) Program) to Washington DC to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifice. The Honor Flight Program is a tribute to our WWII Veterans for all the sacrifices they have endured so that we may live free.

I have had the honor and privilege of being a guardian (escort one generation younger to assist a WWII Veteran in flight and at the memorials) for WWII Veterans from Western Washington under the Southwest Lone Eagle (LE) Program. Each WWII Veteran travels with a guardian.

On Friday we (the WWII Veterans and guardians) fly on a commercial Southwest Airlines flight to Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airport and stay at the BWI Hilton.

On Saturday we ride from Baltimore to Washington DC in a deluxe motor coach with a motorcycle escort and visit the following memorials:

WWII Memorial

Lincoln Memorial

Korean War Memorial

Vietnam Wall War Memorial

Navy Memorial

Arlington National Cemetery to witness the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Women in Military Service for America Memorial

Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima Statue)

Air Force Memorial

The reception the WWII Veterans receive at the WWII Memorial is incredible. People from middle school students to senior citizens and current Armed Forces members from privates to generals and former Senators Bob (WWII 10th Mountain Division Veteran) and Elizabeth Dole greet them, thank them and ask to pose with them for pictures. It was an amazing experience for both the WWII Veteran and guardian.

Many of our WWII Veterans are also Korean War Veterans and a few are also Vietnam War Veterans. We were able to take rubbings for those Killed in Action that we knew at the Vietnam Wall. We also encountered many well wishers at the other above mentioned memorials.

At the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in addition to seeing the Changing of the Guard and Wreath Laying Ceremony, we had an off duty Tomb Guard spend time talking and answering questions with the WWII Veterans and guardians. One significant thing I learned is the reason the Tomb Guards do not wear any rank on their guard uniforms is that no one outranks the Unknowns. This is a place of respect for "Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier Known But To God".

On Sunday we fly back to SeaTac Airport on a commercial Southwest Airlines flight. We had a great group of volunteers from active and retired military and veterans that live in the Washington DC area who assisted us during the Honor Flight Tour of the Memorials. There is also a great group of volunteer Honor Flight Ground Crew who assist us at the BWI Airport and Hotel.

For more information on the Honor Flight Programs, veteran and guardian applications and if you would like to make a donation, please go to the Honor Flight Network website www.honorflight.org.

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 Thursday—4:00PM