



VFW & Ladies Auxiliary
District I Dep't of Washington
August 2013



www.vfwwadistrict1.org

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Upcoming Events for the 2013-14 Year

August 17th	District School of Instruction— Alderwood Boys and Girls Club 1:00PM
August 17th	Aquasox Game—7:00PM— VFW Night
October 18th	Commanders Meetings— Post 2100-6:00PM
January 4, 2014	District Meeting—Alderwood Boys and Girls Club— Lunch 12 PM— Awards Ceremony for VOD, PP, Youth Essays, and Teachers of the Year—Commander's Visit
January 16th- 19th	Mid-Winter Conference, Yakima
February 21st	Commanders Meetings— Post 2100-6:00PM
April 19th	District Memorial Service and meeting, Lunch 12PM, Meeting 1:00PM
May 17th	District Convention—Alderwood Boys and Girls Club—Lunch 12PM, Meeting 1:00PM
June 4th –6th	Department Convention, Yakima
July 19th-23rd	National VFW Convention— St. Louis, MO

School of Instruction

The District's School of Instruction will be held on August 17th. At noon we will have lunch which will be "bring your own brownbag" and I will furnish soft drinks. While officially opening at 1:00PM, I would like to have the lunch be a working lunch where we can toss around ideas to improve our Posts. The School of Instruction will be held at the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club. As far as who should attend, Commanders and their line officers together with their committee chairs should plan on attending. We will be discussing membership ideas, improving Service Officer involvement in our smaller communities, fund raising, publicity, and our key programs such as Educator awards, Voice of Democracy, and Patriots Pen contests. I also want to discuss what are the expectations and goals each Post should have in 2013-14. Like last year, this won't be a lecture but rather a group discussion as virtually everyone attending will be seasoned veterans and exposed to a lot of programs previously. We will be doing some District work as we will need to approve the District's budget for coming year. In that discussion, I would like to discuss District fund raising projects and whether to pursue another raffle this year. I will attempt to keep the meeting moving along and eliminate the minutia. If you can't make the meeting, please have a representative from your Post fill in for you.

Service Appreciation Certificates

Go online to www.vfw.org, log in, click on "Department Resources" under the "How to Get Involved" heading, and look on the right hand column of the page. You'll see certificates for every conflict since WWII that you print and give to your new members (and old ones, for that matter) recognizing their service. Print on card stock paper and you have a certificate worth framing. This is a particularly nice item to present to a new member when they are installed into VFW. Corky had some of these on a CD he mailed out to everyone, but the National site now has Bosnia, Haiti, Kosovo, and Panama, Somalia. Also, there is a 60th Korean War Anniversary which I hope everyone will present to their comrades who served there.

Aquasox Tickets

I now have tickets for the game on August 17th. They are now \$7/each since the \$10 are sold out. Not to worry, we will all sit together, just some of you will have slightly better seats. You can email a request and I'll send them to you or wait until I attend your meeting. This game is a great way for VFW to be exposed to Snohomish County in addition to being a fun evening for all of us. Post 1040's Honor Guard will be presenting the colors and one of you will throw out the first pitch.

National Convention

The National Convention was held last week in Louisville, KY. Like past VFW Conventions, who ever are the powers of location committee, they were able to find the hottest, most humid place outside of Vietnam to hold the event. The politicians showed up and bored us (well, me), but when you pick through the clutter and fluff that goes on in one of these affairs, there is some important stuff that goes on as well.

Several major items came out of the Convention. First, dues are being increased by \$10 effective January 1, 2014. It is important that the word is passed along to your membership that if they pay prior to that time, they save \$10. Also, effective January 1st, is the change of how dues are allocated. Currently, your dues are paid through June 30th and you must pay by December 31st to remain a continuous member. So if you paid on November 1st, you would be paying a retroactive amount back to July 1st, and be paid until the following June 30th. What is now going to happen is your 12 month membership will be effective from the date of payment. Example, you pay on January 31, 2014, your dues are paid until that date in 2015. Confused? Think of your Quartermaster. Further, say your dues are currently \$25. If you paid on December 31st you'd pay that amount; if you pay on January 31st (assuming the Post doesn't want to "eat" the per capita increase), you'll be paying \$35. It won't be a good year to be QM.

The other major change that took place at the National Convention is in the elected positions of the Post. Commencing next year, the Surgeon and Judge Advocate will no longer be elected positions but will be appointed by the Commander. This will enable the smaller Posts to complete their election reports. There are a number of Posts facing the loss of their Charters due to the incomplete Election Reports so this will be a major boost to them.

The Commander's Corner—Jim Traner

Outside of the business portion of the National Convention, you pick up interesting ideas, either from other participants or from the speakers. You also learn a few facts. Retired General Shinseki, head of the VA, reported that less than 1% of the population is currently serving in the military. 1%? I had to look it up and sure enough, that is correct. 9% Americans wore the uniform in WWII. Among Americans over the age of 50, 75% had an immediate family member in the military. Now only a 1/3 of Americans age 18 to 29 can say that. What does that mean? It means there is a disconnect between the military and the civilian population. How does someone who has no connection to what a member of the military goes through have the necessary empathy to fight for those veterans' rights when Congress takes them away (or tries to)? Without intending to, the General reinforced why VFW is so necessary, now more than ever. When the only thing that remains in veteran advocacy is a small minority voice, I can guarantee our rights and benefits will be threatened to the core. Just another good reason to urge veterans to join as many veterans groups as they are eligible to join so our voice will continue to be heard in Washington.

One of the teachers who were recognized as Teachers of the Year made a heck of a good point. This last year he had his representative in the state legislature pass a bill saying that no flag not made in America could be flown in a public building in Florida. He said that he didn't want to wonder that every time he said the Pledge, he might be saluting a flag that had been made in a sweat shop in the China under an oppressive regime that could care less about human rights. I wonder why it isn't a federal law.

Finally, sequester is really starting to annoy me (I originally wrote it a bit harsher). The Commander from JPAC—Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command said that sequester is affecting their operations. These are the folks bringing back our comrades from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Congress had better get their act in order, take a pay cut, or all of the above, and see that our MIA's are accounted for at the end of day.

Post and Auxiliary Inspection Schedule

Arlington Post #1561	Tuesday, September 3rd	6:00PM
Gold Bar Auxiliary #9417	Wednesday, September 4th	3:00PM
Gold Bar Post #9417	Thursday, September 5th	5:00PM
Sultan Post #2554	Thursday, September 12th	6:00PM
Monroe Auxiliary #7511	Thursday, September 12th	1:00PM
Edmonds Post & Auxiliary #8870	Friday, September 13th	11:30PM
Snohomish Post #921	Saturday, September 14th	12:00PM
Snohomish Auxiliary #921	Saturday, September 21st	12:00PM
Everett Post #2100	Thursday, September 26th	5:30PM
Arlington Auxiliary #1561	Tuesday, October 1st	6:00PM
Lynnwood Post & Auxiliary #1040	Thursday, October 3rd	6:00PM
Sultan Auxiliary, #2554	Thursday, October 10th	6:00PM
Monroe Post #7511	Thursday, October 10th	6:00PM
Everett Auxiliary #2100	Monday, October 14th	5:30PM

Operation Desert Comfort

I attended Post 2100's meeting in July. Anthony Juarez, a Comrade in Post 2100 and a veteran of Afghanistan has created a non-profit called "Operation Desert Comfort". He is sending packages back to his contacts or contacts from our local area to service members still deployed there. If you would like additional information, his contact information is:

Anthony M. Juarez

calidoc1988@yahoo.com

Cell: 661-246-5846

I know several other Posts are doing the same thing but I am sure that any assistance you can give him would be appreciated. I might add that neither he or his volunteers take any salary from the organization and any cashed raised is used for postage. Listed below are some of the items that they are trying to obtain for shipment overseas:

Operation Desert Comfort Suggested Donation List

Food Items (single servings)

Dinty Moore Stew
Mac and cheese
soups....Ready to eat
Chili.... Ready to eat
Tuna Fish.. Foil packs
Jerky...Foil Wrapped
Protein bars
Granola Bars
Pop Tarts
Fruit Roll ups/ Fruit Leather
Dried Fruit
Nuts & Sunflower seeds
Chips
Cookies
Popped Popcorn Gum & Hard Candies
Tabasco... Small Bottles
Salt and Pepper Packets
Catsup and Mustard packets
crystal light flavor packets (or similar Drinks)
Juice boxes/ pouches

Personal Care

Toothpaste
Dental Floss
Mouth Wash
3 Blade Razors
Shaving Cream
Deoderant
Bar Soap
Shampoo
Q-Tips
Nail Files/ Clippers
Moisturizing Lotions
Medicated Powder
Bandaides
Kleenex/ Individual Packets

Fun

Small Nerf footballs/ Baseballs
Balloons

If you can think of other things that are easy to pack and ship let us know.

Shipping costs us \$15.00 a box so we are also in need of cash donations.

Information about who to makes checks out to are on the Letter. We are also in need of wonderful people who would like to help pack these boxes.

Donations can be made to Turning Point Church, 1410 8th Street, Marysville, WA 98270 with the notation they are for Operation Desert Comfort.

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: 2nd 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: 2nd Tuesday—7:00PM (Important Change—Normally the 1st Tuesday)

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

Monroe #7511

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

Meeting Date: 2nd Thursday - 7:00PM - Auxiliary 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