



VFW & Ladies Auxiliary  
District I Dep't of Washington  
February 2014



www.vfwwadistrict1.org

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

**Upcoming Events for the 2013-14 Year**

February 21st	Commander Meeting— Location to be determined—6:00PM
March 1st	Newsletter Award entries to Department. Scout of the Year entries to Post Post recognition Citation Requests to National
April 1st	Veteran of the Year nominations, Scout to the Year entries, and Humanitarian Award nominations entries to Department
April 5th	District Memorial Service and meeting, Lunch 12PM, Meeting 1:00PM
April 30th	Publicity Award entries to Publicity Chair. VFW Special Projects to National. NMS recognition deadline
May 17th	District Convention-Alderwood Boys and Girls Club-Lunch 12PM, Meeting 1:00PM
June 4th –6th	Department Convention, Yakima
July 21st-24th	National Convention, St. Louis

**Mid-Winter Conference**

I attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Yakima and was favorably impressed. The conference has been boiled down to one day with the banquet honoring the Voice of Democracy winners in the evening. There were no 30 minute breaks following each presenter. Everything was concise and punctual. A nice change from previous events.

I took 4 pages of notes so let me try to boil them down for this newsletter. In this column, I'll give you a summary of some very special projects that need your Post's monetary support.

First, the National Home can use your Post's help. The Washington House needs a new roof. A suggestion was made that each Post contribute \$25 to the project. Checks should be sent to Department with the notation that the funds are to be used for the roof.

*Heroes in the Ballpark* will be on July 11th. This is an annual event sponsored by Department to take 500 wounded warriors to a Tacoma Rainiers game. Brad Pieratt, who chairs the National Military Service committee, asked that each Post support 10 wounded warriors to attend the game at a cost to the Post of \$100. May 1st is the deadline to get the checks to Department. Please make the checks payable to "VFW Heroes in the Ballpark".

Another worthwhile project that needs monetary support is the Special Olympics. Gordon Huggins who attended our last District meeting is requesting that each Post consider a \$25 donation. District I only has had two Posts to my knowledge who have supported this worthwhile cause.

Finally, the USO at SeaTac has expanded from its old space of 3,400 sq. feet to a new location of 7,000 sq. feet. The facility is the busiest USO in the nation with 10,000 military personnel using it monthly. They are in need of funds to purchase furniture and other items for the expanded space. I suggest you send your checks directly to the USO at SeaTac and not to the national organization.

**Student Essay Contest  
Participants Recognized**

At the January 4<sup>th</sup> District I meeting, area students who participated in the Annual VFW Student Essay contest were recognized for their achievements. Plaques and cash awards were presented to the following students whose essays were judged to have been superior:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Addison Stratman, Post 9417
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Nadia Stine, Post 9417
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Lily Guthrie, Post 7511
- Patriot Pen: Mariana Jazmin-Martinez Post 2554
- Voice of Democracy: Shadrach Strehle Post 921

## District I Places High in Essay Contests



Shadrack Strehle, an 11th grader from Snohomish High School shown above receiving his award, finished 5th in state competition in the Voice of Democracy contest. Shad was Post 921's VOD winner as well as District 1's winner. Of the 16 District winners from across the state, only 5 are awarded prizes at the banquet. Shad was accompanied by his mom Amber, and his grandparents Joe and Diane Sallee. Unfortunately, Shad's father was on a business trip and unable to attend the award ceremony.

Addison Stratman was awarded a \$75 check for placing 2nd in the state for 3rd graders entering the Youth Essay Contest. There are only 3 winners recognized in each grade level (3rd grade through 6th grade) so it was quite an accomplishment to place so high. Addison was sponsored by Gold Bar's Post 9417.

One final note. The banquet to honor the kids is the highlight of my VFW year. If you can, plan on attending one in the future.

## Edmonds Teacher Earns State Honors by Fred Apgar



At the Department of Washington VFW Mid-Winter Convention, Kathy Miller was honored for her on-going efforts to promote American history, teach responsible citizenship, and promote democratic values. Her name will be forwarded to National VFW where Kathy will compete for national honors. Kathy is a vocal music teacher at Meadowdale Middle School, and she was sponsored by Post #8870. Kathy devotes countless hours to organizing and producing her school's annual Veterans Day assemblies that are moving tributes and expressions of appreciation for all of those who have served in our nation's armed forces. Local veterans are invited to the assemblies, which feature personal testimonials, student essays and poetry, visual displays, and original musical productions. Kathy is described by her supervisors as a positive role model for her students who has a passion for vocal music, and makes connections with her students. Student testimonials to her dedication to her profession include comments such as, "You have made a major impact on my life" and "because of you, I learned to sing from my heart".

## Northwest Battle Buddies

I made an observation to Fred Apgar who accompanied me to Mid-Winter that I was surprised at the number of service animals that were in attendance at the National convention in Louisville, KY including one by Bruce Crandall, Medal of Honor recipient. These animals are used to alleviate the symptoms of PTSD. No sooner than I had made the observation then a couple of service dogs made their appearance as we entered the convention center in Yakima. They were there with a nonprofit organization called Northwest Battle Buddies who supply service dogs at no charge to our fellow veterans suffering from PTSD. The cost to train one is \$12,000. As you can see, the average veteran is unable to afford one so NW Battle Buddies is there to assist. These animals are not there just to be a family pet, they are there to assist qualified veterans suffering from PTSD and/or depression to deal with the obstacles that prevent them from living their daily lives at the fullest. If you would like additional information on the program, their website is [northwestbattlebuddies.org](http://northwestbattlebuddies.org) and the phone is 360-601-9744.

## **Commander's Column - April District Meeting Moved to April 5th**

I made a command decision after learning that the Alderwood Little League was having registration on April 20th, to move the District Meeting to April 5th. Some of you may wonder why not April 13th. However, being a CPA, that particular weekend is the busiest two days in the year for me so couldn't schedule that date. I didn't want to move the meeting later in the month as we have a District Convention scheduled for May 17th. Bottom line, April 5th was chosen by default. I know a number of you have previous commitments and for that I apologize. The real culprit in this debacle is the Boys and Girls Club who has known for 8 or 9 months that we had scheduled the facility on that particular date. I know that the schedule for next year is being reviewed and the District is trying to work around the Christmas Trees and Little League Registration. Hopefully, this is the end of that saga.

Just a reminder that the April 5th meeting is our annual Memorial Service for our fallen Comrades and Sisters. I would ask the Chaplain of each Post and Auxiliary to begin assembling a list of those individuals. Our District Chaplain, Jim Raymond, is one of those individuals who has a previous engagement and will be unable to attend the Memorial Service so I have asked Tom Darling, Department Chaplain, to fill in for Jim. Tom lives in Bellingham but graciously agreed to attend our meeting. There will be additional announcements and reminders, but a heads up for Post Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents to arrive at 11:00 AM for a walk-through of the ceremony.

I sent thank you cards to some of you who helped with the January District meeting, but I'm sure I left a lot of names off the list. For everyone who chipped in and carried tables and chairs, decorated the tables, introduced student and teacher winners, got food, cleaned up, and finally, put things away, I want to thank you.

Finally, I hope everyone has a great Valentine Day and I will see you at your Post meeting.

## **Membership Must Be a Priority**

I have to say that Marty Spani could give a lesson on retaining members. When you review the stats on membership look at Post 1040's retention percentage. It takes effort to reach out to unpaid Post members. We do what we can and sometimes it isn't enough. That's ok if the effort has been expended. Right now we only have two Posts, 1040 and 7511, with 100% membership. Even with 39 new members, we are over 100 members short of 100% in the District. We have a huge veteran population in Snohomish County that is largely untapped. However, let's first keep our current members by reaching out to them and welcoming them back into VFW.

## **Commanders Only Meeting**

There will be a Commanders Only Meeting on Feb. 21st at 6:00PM. I am trying to find a location in Snohomish for the event. This is a meeting to share ideas and see what we can do for each other.

## **Department Mailings**

For you older, or should I say, more experienced Commanders, you will recall receiving a thick packet of information in the mail from Department every month. Department is no longer mailing this information out but is posting it on line at [www.vfwofwa.org](http://www.vfwofwa.org) under the "Links" tab. Please make a note to check it every week or so for updates. General Order #6 is posted in January and item 4 of the GO addresses the duties of the Trustees and the fact they cannot serve on any committees or as officers whose books and records are being audited by the Trustees. Please point out to your Trustees that their signatures (as well as the Post Commander's) are certifying to the accuracy of the information contained therein.

## **Sultan Post 2554 Partially Recovers Stolen Funds**

The bonding company has reimbursed Post 2554 \$70,000 of the approximately \$92,000 embezzled by its former QM. Lessons to be learned—make sure you have an adequate bond for your Post and the Trustees and Post Commander are functioning as a check and balance on the QM activities. End of lecture.

### Post Tallies as of January 31st

Post	4th Qtr	audits			Comm. Svc								
		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
921	4/22	9/30	10/28	1/28	5/28	7/8	8/9	9/3	10/1	11/6	12/6	1/9	
1040	4/8	7/10	10/10	1/7	6/11	7/3	8/2	9/6	10/4	11/8	12/6	1/3	
1561	5/14	7/12	10/17		6/20	8/27	8/27	9/19	10/15	11/13	12/13		
2100	5/31	10/1			8/21	7/9	7/31	9/9	10/1	11/20	12/10	1/10	
2554	4/12	8/9	12/19	1/29	7/19	7/19	8/9	9/4	10/1	12/10	12/12	1/29	
7511	4/24	9/16	11/4	1/15	7/11	7/11	8/20	9/9	10/30	11/12	12/16	1/8	
8870	4/9	7/10	10/15	1/21	5/29	6/27	7/29	8/28	9/24	10/31	12/2	12/26	1/30
9417	4/9	7/19	10/30	1/18	8/30	8/30	8/30	11/1	10/30	1/18	1/18	1/18	

Hospital									Chaplain								
May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
5/28	7/8	8/9	9/3	10/1	11/6	12/6	1/9		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
6/11	7/3	8/2	9/6	10/4	11/8	12/6	1/3		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
6/20	9/4	9/4	9/19	10/15	11/13	12/13			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
8/21	7/9	7/31	9/9	10/1	11/20	12/10	1/10		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7/19	7/19	8/9	9/4	10/1	12/10	12/10	1/29			X	X	X					
8/20	8/20	8/20	9/9	10/30	11/12	12/16	1/8			X	X		X	X	X		
5/29	6/27	7/29	8/29	9/24	10/31	12/4	12/26	1/30	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
9/3	8/30	9/3	11/1	10/30	1/18	1/18			X	X	X	X	X		X		

### VFW Membership as of January 31st

Post	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted			Prior			
						Prior Year*	Percent	N/R LM	Prior Annual	Retention		
921	57	0	0	2	59	61	96.72%	0	6	50.00%		
1040	200	11	8	67	286	285	100.35%	2	87	95.40%		
1561	103	3	1	34	141	168	83.92%	0	68	57.35%		
2100	709	16	7	46	778	825	94.30%	6	87	66.67%		
2554	25	1	0	3	29	33	87.87%	0	5	60.00%		
7511	32	0	1	4	37	36	102.77%	0	6	100.00%		
8870	151	7	3	35	196	214	91.58%	2	70	67.14%		
9417	53	2	0	7	62	66	93.93%	1	14	50.00%		
<b>1,330</b>						<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>1,688</b>	<b>94.07%</b>	<b>11</b>

## **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 18821 Crown Ridge Blvd Arlington, WA 98223

**Meeting Date:** 1st Tuesday—7:00PM

### **Old Guard Post #2100**

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

**Meeting Date:** Last Thursday-6:30PM - 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 - Auxiliary 4:00 PM