



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



www.vfwwadistrict1.org

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Upcoming Events for the 2013-14 Year

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, Practice 11AM, 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

Student Veterans & Political Games

In the recent Legislative session in Olympia, there were two bills stalled that would provide in-state tuition for military veterans and active duty personnel. For instance, a young soldier from another state trying to complete his education while stationed in Washington must pay out of state tuition which is significantly higher than instate tuition. The reason the two bills were stalled was each party was trying to take credit for proposing it. If the Senate version was passed, the R's would take credit and if the House version was passed, the D's would get the credit. It's a hell of a way to run a state. This is the letter that I sent to my Senator and Representative.

Don Williams

Don lost his battle to cancer and we lost a great friend and Comrade. Don was District Commander 2008-09 and a member of Post #1561. Our condolences to his wife Carol and his family.

I am the District Commander for the VFW Posts located in Snohomish County. When I wear my VFW cover, I am typically apolitical, but in this case I have to break my own rules. I urge you and your counterparts in the House to put the required amount of pressure on your leadership (?) to quit the political posturing and get one of these bills passed TODAY. Not tomorrow or next week but TODAY. I am copying Rep. Mary Helen Roberts on this message. I have the upmost respect for her and I am sure between the two of you progress will be made quickly. I will be in Gold Bar this evening for a VFW meeting, and I will be bringing this matter to their attention as I will to every Post in the County as I make my monthly visits.

District Memorial Service

The memorial service will be held Saturday, April 5th at the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club. We need some folks there to assist Gold Bar and Sultan in setup which is a bit more elaborate than a regular meeting. We will have a dress rehearsal at 11AM. We have lost a lot of good Comrades this past year and I want to make sure we give them the honor they deserve.

Shortly after that letter, at literally the 11th hour of the session, the Senate bill sponsored by the R's passed the House and was signed by the Governor. If any of you attend any events sponsored by your local Senator or Representative and they pat themselves on the back for passing this legislation, just be cognoscente of the fact that both parties did a disservice to our student veterans by using this bill as a political football. Further, they should both be ashamed of their behavior in doing so.

Oso Slide Victims

District I has reached out to the Red Cross to offer assistance to any veterans, their families, or active duty military impacted by the slide. We haven't heard back but things have been chaotic during the recovery efforts. Post 1561 has been assisting and we will support their efforts as well as the Red Cross.

District I Auxiliary Fund Raiser

The District Auxiliary needs help in filling shifts for the Smokey Point Coffee Stop. Please let Mary Davenport know if you can fill one or more of the shifts.

April 21

1 pm - 6 pm Mary D. & Verna - 425-760-0102

6 pm - 10 pm OPEN

10 pm - 2 am OPEN

April 22

2 am - 6am Elmer J. & Danny H. -425-232-778

6 am - 10 am OPEN

10 am - 2 pm Mrya R. & Connie D. 206-235-0438

2 pm - 6 pm Lynn & Richey 425- 345-1457

6 pm - 10 pm Marelle R. & Louise F. 425-760-5336

10 pm -2 am OPEN

April 23

2 am - 6 am Elmer J. & Danny H. -425-232-778

6 am- 10 am OPEN

10 pm - 1 pm CLOSING Mary D. & Verna

MAY 5

1 pm - 6 pm Mary D. & Verna

6 pm - 10 pm OPEN

10 pm - 2 am OPEN

May 6

2 am - 6 am OPEN

6 am- 10 am OPEN

10 am - 2 pm OPEN

2 pm - 6 pm Lynn & Richey 425- 345-1457

6 pm - 10 pm OPEN

10 pm - 2 am OPEN

May 7

2 am- 6 am OPEN

6 am -10 am OPEN

10 am - 1 pm Mary D. & Verna

May 28

1pm - 6 pm Mary & Verna

6 pm - 10 pm OPEN

10 pm -2 am OPEN

May 29

2 am - 6 am OPEN

6 am - 10 am OPEN

10 am - 2 pm Connie D. 425-672-2581

2 pm - 6 pm Lynn & Richey 425- 345-1457

6 pm - 10 pm OPEN

10 pm - 2 am OPEN

May 30

2 am - 6 am OPEN

6 am - 10 am OPEN

10 am - 1 pm Mary Davenport 425-760-0102 closing

VFW and the Vietnam Veteran

There were a number of Vietnam veterans who were not welcomed home by their local VFW Posts, and on more than one occasion, I have received an earful from one of them as to why they won't join VFW. My first response is it's been 45 years, let it go. My second response is VFW is made up of individuals and some of those individuals took it upon themselves to look down on us when we tried to join their Post. A bunch of us from my high school joined Post 379 in Yakima at the same time. To say we weren't warmly greeted, would be a slight understatement. Think of it in today's context, you have 6 men walk through the door and say they want to join your Post. I doubt there would be even the slightest hesitation in welcoming them. In our case, there was a lot of hesitation as they scrutinize our DD-214's before reluctantly conceding we were eligible. A year or so later, I was attending the U of W and the VA had not send me a check for my GI Bill benefits even though I had signed every form they presented to me. I worked as a surveyor for an engineering firm when I wasn't attending classes and my crew drove by the VFW headquarters which was on Boren Avenue at that time. I had the boss swing in and I ran in a told my sad story of not seeing a check for several months. Whoever was behind the desk picked up the phone and called the head of the VA handling the GI Bill benefits for Seattle. Within a few days, I had all my checks and never had a late check again. Two individuals representing VFW leaving two entirely different impressions. So when you get a Vietnam veteran who thinks that VFW turned its back on him, you may mention to him that one individual member may have mistreated him, but not the VFW organization.

Take Your RV to Yakima

For those of you going to the Department Convention in Yakima, consider taking your RV (if you have one) and stay at Sportsman State Park. It's just across the river from the Convention Center and we be having a BBQ on one of the evenings. Heck, at \$85 a night in the Red Lion, you may be able to rent one for less.

A Snapshot of a Problem

District 1 Membership - 2005 vs. 2013

<u>Post</u>	<u>6/30/2005</u>	<u>6/30/2013</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Differ-</u>
921	107	61	(46)	-43.0%
1040	289	285	(4)	-1.4%
1561	168	168	0	0.0%
2100	1,183	825	(358)	-30.3%
2554	37	33	(4)	-10.8%
7511	47	36	(11)	-23.4%
8870 & 7482*	188	214	26	13.8%
9417	105	66	(39)	-37.1%
	<u>2,124</u>	<u>1,688</u>	<u>(436)</u>	<u>-20.5%</u>

*Merged - Totals of two Posts are combined for comparison

I guess the words from Apollo 13 were echoing in my mind when I put the above numbers down on paper “Mission Control, we have a problem”. Marty Spani handed me a copy of the District Statistics from 2005 at a memorial service he and I attended. I stuck the piece of paper in my pocket and didn’t look at it for several days. When I did, I was shocked. Being a CPA, I opened up an excel spread sheet and popped the numbers in it and what you see above is a copy of the sheet. The two periods being compared are a scant 8 years apart and District 1 has shrunk over 20%. Our largest Post, 2100, has lost more members than any of the other Posts have in total membership. Do we have to do a better job in recruiting or do we have to do a better job in retaining members? Of course the answer is both, but how to go about improving those areas is the challenge. Now I know that the party line is our WWII veterans are dying at an alarming rate. That is true but I think there is more to it than that. I was talking to one of the Post Commanders whose name will go unmentioned, and he said something that struck home with me. I am paraphrasing but it was something along the line that we as an organization need to evaluate the product we are producing and whether it meets the needs of our members. I believe the results above confirm that diagnosis. So here’s the deal troops, we can’t influence National to any degree that would produce meaningful changes, but we can change the culture in our own Posts and in our District. At the first meeting following installation of officers, I suggest you or the new Post Commander ask your members what they would like to see changed in your Post and what they want to see accomplished. Don’t worry about the Manual of Procedure and things you can’t change, worry about the stuff you can. I think the School of Instruction in August should put this at the top of the agenda although that will not be my call. We don’t need to spend any time dealing with deadlines and other minutia that can be handed out or put into an email or newsletter. We have bigger fish to fry. On the flip side of the equation, you as a Post Commander, may ask why Post 1040 and 1561 have held their membership and 8870 has increased theirs by almost 14%. I suspect these Posts had the same percentage of WWII members as did the other Posts. Facts to ponder. Finally, I think successful Posts seem to be busy Posts. There might be the chicken or the egg argument there but it is a truism. I am going to make a suggestion that each Post identify something they can do in their community which would have a significant impact on Post participation. Whether that is trying to put a bunch of veterans in classrooms, start a new Boy or Girl Scout troop, or build a veterans park like 1040 did, get involved and get your Post members involved. Otherwise that 20% decline will be 40% in another 8 years.

VFW
 District One
 April 5, 2014

Noon lunch
 1 PM Memorial Service
 Followed by Meeting

All Post Commanders and Auxiliary
 Presidents are urged to attend
 District Meetings including the District
 Memorial Service. If you cannot attend,
 please send a replacement.
 "We need your participation".

A typed list of *Deceased Members*,
 with expiration date, between
 March 1, 2013 and March 1, 2014
 are due to Ron Haley by March 10th 2014.

VFW Membership as of March 29th

Post	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted		N/R LM	Prior	
						Prior Year	Percent		Annual	Retention
921	57	2	0	2	61	61	100.00%	0	6	50.00%
1040	201	11	9	68	289	285	101.40%	3	87	97.70%
1561	104	4	2	35	145	168	86.31%	1	68	61.76%
2100	711	17	8	51	787	825	95.39%	7	87	74.71%
2554	25	2	0	3	30	33	90.91%	0	5	60.00%
7511	32	0	1	4	37	36	102.78%	0	6	100.00%
8870	152	7	4	38	201	214	93.93%	3	70	72.86%
9417	53	2	0	9	64	66	96.97%	1	14	64.29%
	1,335	45	24	210	1,614	1,688	95.61%	15		

Post Tallies

	audits				
Post	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	poppies
921	9/30	10/28	1/28		3,000
1040	7/10	10/10	1/7		1,500
1561	7/12	10/17	2/10		5,000
2100	10/1	2/11	3/4		2,000
2554	8/9	12/19	1/29		500
7511	9/16	11/4	1/15		500
8870	7/10	10/15	1/21		15,000
9417	7/19	10/30	1/18		500
Dist 01	7/19	10/16	1/16		

Comm. Svc

May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
5/28	7/8	8/9	9/3	10/1	11/6	12/6	1/9	2/7	3/7	
6/11	7/3	8/2	9/6	10/4	11/8	12/6	1/3	2/7	3/7	
6/20	8/27	8/27	9/19	10/15	11/13	12/13				
8/21	7/9	7/31	9/9	10/1	11/20	12/10	1/10	2/10	3/7	
7/19	7/19	8/9	9/4	10/1	12/10	12/12	1/29	3/19	3/19	
7/11	7/11	8/20	9/9	10/30	11/12	12/16	1/8	3/14	3/14	
5/29	6/27	7/29	8/28	9/24	10/31	12/2	12/26	1/30	2/28	3/24
8/30	8/30	8/30	11/1	10/30	1/18	1/18	1/18	3/20		

Hospital

May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
5/28	7/8	8/9	9/3	10/1	11/6	12/6	1/9	2/7	3/7	
6/11	7/3	8/2	9/6	10/4	11/8	12/6	1/3	2/7	3/7	
6/20	9/4	9/4	9/19	10/15	11/13	12/13				
8/21	7/9	7/31	9/9	10/1	11/20	12/10	1/10	2/10	3/7	
7/19	7/19	8/9	9/4	10/1	12/10	12/10	1/29	3/19	3/19	
8/20	8/20	8/20	9/9	10/30	11/12	12/16	1/8	3/14	3/14	
5/29	6/27	7/29	8/29	9/24	10/31	12/4	12/26	1/30	2/28	3/24
9/3	8/30	9/3	11/1	10/30	1/18	1/18		3/20	3/21	

Chaplain

May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		

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