



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

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Commander's Letter

Greetings everyone! As the days are getting longer and hopefully the temperatures start to rise, we can celebrate that we made it through the darkest days of Winter and are headed towards an awesome Spring. Remember, only a bit more than 100 days to Apple Blossom!

WENATCHEE VALLEY VFW POST 3617 CELEBRATES 100 YEARS Incredible as it seems, we'll be celebrating the **100th Anniversary of VFW Post 3617 on March 22, 2022**. We inherited that early charter date from Wenatchee VFW Post 902 as they became part of our Post in 2008. We're also a family of comrades from another VFW Post that joined our ranks, Wenatchee River Post 10445 in Cashmere. We will be having a couple celebrations to recognize this moment in our history. Still in the planning stages, we'd like to have a dinner at a local restaurant around the anniversary date and then an outdoor event in the early part of the summer. We'll have specific dates in the next newsletter.

COVID OMICRON VARIANT Everywhere around the state is seeing a rapid increase of the Omicron Variant of COVID, just as we are here in our valley. With case rates at an all-time high, close to 2,300 per 100k people in Chelan and Douglas counties, it's vital that we stay on top of all precautions to protect ourselves, family members, and community. Access to Friday Coffee, monthly meetings, and Post activities will depend on recommendations from the Chelan Douglas Health District. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for current conditions at the Post.

SNOWSTORM I hope that everyone made it through last week's massive snowstorm. We're now left cleaning up the mess as we deal with warming temperatures and rainfall. It will probably be weeks before we're back to normal. One thing that was immediately evident with all the melting snow is that overnight it freezes into clear ice on the sidewalks and roads. The immediate hazard of this ice is felt in the morning hours before warming temperatures and sunlight melt it away. **Be extra careful** if you're out & about.

MIDWINTER CONFERENCE & VOD BANQUET The 2022 VFW Mid-Winter Conference and VOD Banquet is taking place on Saturday, **January 15th in Yakima**. Our post and auxiliary representative will be there to support our own VOD winner, Rachel Carter, as she represents District 7 in the State competition. Additionally, her brother, Will Carter, is the District 7 Patriot's Pen winner. I feel both have great essays and speeches to compete with the best of the other candidates from around the state. I'll update you as I find out the results at the VOD Banquet on Saturday evening.

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WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA It was an exceptional year with Wreaths Across America on Saturday, December 18th at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in East Wenatchee. Even though with temperatures in the low teens and snow falling, about 30 people made their way to the ceremony. Opening with the Colors presentation by cadets from the Pangborn Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, and National Anthem sung by Sarah Simonson, a solemn ceremony was held around the flagpole to honor military members from all branches of service. Afterwards, everyone was invited to help lay 400+ evergreen wreaths on the graves in the Military and Veterans Section of the cemetery. Additionally, a dozen wreaths were laid on veteran graves at the Stemilt Hill Cemetery. Thank you to everyone that braved the conditions to honor veterans.

POST CHRISTMAS PARTY In the afternoon after the Wreaths Across America Ceremony, Post, Auxiliary, and family members gathered for our annual Christmas Party and Dinner. An excellent ham dinner with all the trimmings was provided by the ladies of the Auxiliary. A gift exchange was also available for those that wanted to participate and I saw many happy faces as they opened their presents.

We also held a drawing for "Stan's Last Jug & Tackle Box". The "Jug" was a full bottle of R & R left in the estate of Merle 'Stan' Stanhope after he passed away last December. The tackle box was something Stan gave me a few years ago after he could no longer make it to his favorite fishing holes. He said to sell it or raffle it off to earn money for the Post. Well that's what we did! **Stan's gift raised \$147** for our Post Memorial Building Fund. And, as a final salute to our departed comrade, I'm told the jug will travel with Stan to Corvallis, Montana this Spring as he's laid to rest in the Bitterroot Valley. Thank you to everyone that helped to honor our old friend.

DISTRICT 7 MEETING The next VFW District 7 Meeting will take place at our Post on **Saturday, February 19, 2022**. District 7 Auxiliary will be meeting also. Luncheon will be served at 12 noon with meetings scheduled to start at 1pm. This meeting will also hold the first nominations for District Officers for 2022-2023.

FINAL THOUGHTS Many of us are doing wonderful things in our daily lives to support veterans and their family members here in the Wenatchee Valley. Delivering meals, shoveling snow, visiting, doing some shopping for those that are stuck at home due to a health condition or just bad weather. No matter how small the task, all of these things and more are considered Community Service. And **Community Service is a huge part of what keeps us going as a non-profit organization**. We have a Community Service clipboard at the Post that can be filled out to list the task, hours, and miles driven to document your service. Please think about those things you do and document them for us. Either add them to the clipboard at the Post, or email your accomplishments (or questions) directly to Adjutant Connie at vw3617adj@gmail.com Community Service hours are tallied at the end of each month and submitted to the Department of Washington and VFW National Headquarters. Thank you!

Brad Pieratt, Commander



Auxiliary President's Letter

It is hard to believe a new year is finally here. May we all celebrate the return to a more normal life soon. Hopefully as more people become protected from cov'd we can all see a return to our routines and life with our families. I hope everyone is being careful and wearing masks when out in public.

Even though cov'd has changed a lot for the Auxiliary we have managed to stay busy. In December we **adopted a veteran family for Christmas**. Thanks to the generosity of Larry Severin we were able to give all three children bicycles. Larry purchased bikes for the two oldest children and the Auxiliary bought one for the three year old. With all of the donations of gifts and gift cards we were able to give the family a very special Christmas.

Many of the Auxiliary members participated in the Wreaths Across America. This year our Post had more wreaths than ever to lay at the cemetery. With the help of the Civil Air Patrol youth and (Post Commander) Brad (Pieratt) we were able to have a nice ceremony before the wreaths were placed on the graves. Thank you Brad keeping it short due to the freezing weather.

As with most holidays **we made small decorations to take to the nursing homes**. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the ornaments and to Bicky and Carol for delivering them to all of the nursing homes. They delivered about 75 felt ornaments. We also hosted the Post Christmas party. I want to thank everyone who came and brought side dishes. A special thank you to Jo Cadwallader for getting up early and making the ham. Everything was delicious!

We are continuing our **Community Outreach Project with the Wenatchee Humane Society**. We have a tote at the Post where we are collecting toilet and paper towel rolls. The Humane Society uses them to hide treats for the animals to give them some stimulation while kenneled. They go through a lot to rolls so the more we can collect the better. Please take any donations to the Post or contact an Auxiliary member to make arrangements to get your donations.

In January we will be discussing **helping the homeless**. TJ (Boteilho) has contacted me about a shelter he is working with and their needs. At this time they are looking for blankets, stocking hats, gloves and socks. I am sure we will have some ideas on how we can help with their needs. I will keep everyone posted on what we plan. If you want to donate or have questions please give me a call.

The Illustrating America and Patriotic Art contests are in progress. The deadline for entries is March 31st. If you have a student who would like to participate you can get an entry form and information on the Post website or contact me for an entry form. The Sing the Red, White, and Blue singing contest is also ending March 31st. Information can be found in the same places. *[Editor note: see page 4 for details and links to forms]*

In closing if you are an Auxiliary member and are interested in our projects we would enjoy having you at our January 19th meeting. If you are **unable to attend but are interested in all that we do please give me a call**. I would like to get to know each of our members.

~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President
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Deadline Approaching: Youth Art Contests

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART — The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest encourages patriotism in high school students. Open to all students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home study program. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$33,000.

More details and Entry Form at <https://vfwpost3617.org/auxiliary/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/>

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA — Illustrating America is a patriotic art contest for elementary and middle/junior high school students that encourages students' artistic abilities and rewards their hard work. It's open to all students in grades 1-8 who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home study program divided into three grade divisions: 1-2, 3-5 and 6-8. There is one National winner in each grade division, with awards for first, second and third place in each grade division.

More details and Entry Form at <https://vfwpost3617.org/auxiliary/illustrating-america-art-contest/>

GET EXCITED FOR THE RED WHITE AND BLUE! — This is a National Anthem Singing contest for all students grades K-12, divided into two grade divisions: K-8, 9-12, encouraging students to express their creativity while promoting Americanism. There is one National winner in each grade division, with additional awards for first, second, and third place per division.

More details and Entry Form at <https://vfwpost3617.org/auxiliary/get-excited-for-red-white-blue/>

ENTRIES for all of these contests are due no later than 31 MARCH 2022!

Zoom Meetings Information

Post Meetings: 19 Jan & 16 Feb @ 7pm

Meeting ID: 815 7531 2989

Passcode: 996024

Join a zoom meeting one of 3 ways:

1. Use the Zoom app, tap Join
2. Visit <https://zoom.us/join/>
3. Dial +1 253 215 8782

then enter the Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted.

Coffee with the (State) Commander via Zoom

VFW Washington Commander Chad Hassebroek is hosting monthly open discussion and information sharing sessions via Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (same as our Post meetings). Open to all.

Meeting ID: 830 9932 2478

Passcode: 123456

19 Jan & 16 Feb @ 10am or 4pm

Unity of Purpose

“Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers met together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship.”

— A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God: The Human Thirst for the Divine*

As Mr. Tozer pointed out, for clarity of purpose and unity of mind we have one true source to focus on. Looking to one another may be helpful for encouragement and many hands do make light work, but I'd encourage you to keep your eyes fixed on the source and not on those around you for a clear understanding of purpose. Do not allow yourself to be caught up in your own mind and thinking or to burden yourself with the thoughts and ideas of others. Take refuge and comfort in the assurance of your place among God's children and work together with your community to bear the fruit of His Spirit. I pray your New Year is fruitful and blessed.

- Sarah Simonson, Chaplain



TAPS - Remembering those we've recently lost

Laron Leedy
Richard "Dick" Thomas

From the Editor

As a reminder, any member of the Post or Auxiliary may submit stories, photos, article ideas, etc for inclusion both on the website and in our newsletter. The next issue of the newsletter will publish on/around 05 March 2022, so the **deadline for submissions is end of February**. Photos and stories to be included on the website can be submitted at any time via email.

If you have any questions, comments, stories, photos, or just ideas, email webmaster@vfwpost3617.org

Thanks,

- Connie Hill, Adjutant / Newsletter / Webmaster

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