



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

Volume 15, Issue 2

April 2023

CONTENTS:

Pg 1:
Commander's Letter
Coffee @ Bonaventure
Spring Cleaning

Pg 2:
Apple Blossom Festival
Meetings Information
From the Editor

Pg 3:
Aux President's Letter

Pg 4:
Aux Pres Letter cont.
Lunch & a Movie

Pg 5:
Chaplain's Corner
Quarterly Luncheon

Pg 6:
Memorial Day
Riders Group Forming

Pg 7:
OCF Annual Fundraiser

Pg 8: Mailing Cover
USPS ID statement

Commander's Letter

Spring is finally here with the clock moving forward and the temperatures warming nicely. I even saw the first daffodils and crocus blooming in my neighborhood last weekend. Now if I can convince my maple trees that it's time to drop last year's leaves... they just plain missed the short Fall season. A happy Easter's greetings to everyone and I hope you're in good health and spirit as we approach bloom season in the Wenatchee Valley.

Commander Brad Pieratt

VETERANS COFFEE AT BONAVENTURE

We have restarted our monthly Veterans Coffee at Bonaventure after an almost 2-years hiatus due to COVID. We meet on the **first Monday of each month at 10am** in the upstairs Common Area and Billiards Lounge on the second floor. We're working hard with the Bonaventure Activities Director to get all the veteran residents notified on the day of our gathering to increase the residents' participation. The coffee is open to all our members and auxiliary to attend. Next coffee will be on **Monday April 3rd** at 10am.



SPRING CLEANING AND LANDSCAPING

The annual Spring ritual of cleaning the Post grounds and planting flowers will take place on **Friday, April 14th** following our weekly coffee break at 9:30am. We have a few upgrades to the Post that require minor carpentry skills in addition to planting the flower beds and pots. Please bring your own gloves and any tools that you'd like to operate! Donuts and coffee are free to volunteers on this day and we should be finished by noon.



(Continued on page 2)



Auxiliary President's Letter

Greetings to everyone. Hope this finds you well and everyone was able to avoid all of the colds and flu going around. It looks like we might get some warmer weather soon then we can all enjoy the outdoors and get over this cabin fever.

The Auxiliary has been busy despite the weather. Our winter project for the homeless this year was a **food drive to help Serve Wenatchee**. The donated food items were delivered the first week of March. Thank you to everyone who donated items. It is amazing how much food we were able to collect. With the governments expanded food support (EBT) going away or reducing for many in our community the food banks will need all of the support we can offer. If you are interested in donating food all year look into **THE GREEN BAG PROGRAM**. You register by email at greenbags@cdac.org or calling 509-662-6156. You will receive a green bag and they ask that you buy one extra item while doing your shopping each week. They will come and pick up your bag every other month. What a great way to help our community! *[Editor's note: a blog post with more details and images can be found on our website.]*



The Auxiliary made and sent Valentines to our Post members who live in Wenatchee and East Wenatchee. Hopefully you received yours. We also made cards for the Veteran residents at Bonaventure and other resident homes. A special thank you to Carol Trunzo for once again coming up with a fun project for our Veteran members who live in retirement residences. We also partnered with students at Lee and Rock Island Elementary Schools for **Valentines for Veterans**. The students at the two schools made over 300 valentines for our Veterans. The Valentines were shared with Bonaventure, the Veterans Hall, Walla Walla Soldier Home and Orting Soldier Home. *[Editor's note: More on this at our website as well.]*



The blood drive has been postponed for now. The state of Washington changed the rules for holding blood drives so we will be putting it off until we can get the correct paper work in to the State. We are now planning for a summer blood drive.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

The members of the Auxiliary voted to send \$50 to the Department of Washington **Presidents Special Project**. This year the current President, Joan Murphy-Nihart, chose **Salmon for Soldiers**. This is an organization that takes Veterans on fishing trips. We were reminded that we have local Post 3617 members who have started a non-profit called **Operation Catching Freedom**. They also arrange fishing trips for veterans in the Wenatchee Valley. The auxiliary gave Operation Catching Freedom a \$50 donation also. We are also planning to offer support to their June Fundraiser.

The Auxiliary members are planning to go to lunch on April 1st. We will meet at the Post to work on our year-end reports and then on to The Wild Huckleberry for lunch. If you are interested in attending we will meet at 10:00 for report writing and then to lunch. **Every Auxiliary member is invited** even if you are not writing a report. Just come and visit with your fellow Auxiliary members.

The annual St Patrick Day corn beef dinner was on March 15th before our regularly scheduled meetings. Jo Cadwallader once again prepared the delicious corn beef and cabbage. Other members brought a variety of dishes to round out the meal.

As always give me a call with any questions or just to talk.

~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President
(425) 223-2172 slanc0382@netzero.com

Lunch and a Movie

On March 22nd we had our second Lunch & a Movie at the Post with 12 people attending. The menu was fried chicken with potato salad and baked beans. For the movie, we watched the epic and inspirational movie "Devotion". Based on the true life story of two elite US Navy fighter pilots who helped turn the tide in the most brutal battle in the Korean War: Jesse Brown, the first Black aviator in Navy history and his fellow fighter pilot and friend, Tom Hudner. Their heroic sacrifices and enduring friendship would ultimately make them the Navy's most celebrated wingmen. Thanks to those who attended!



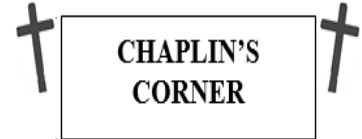
The next scheduled Lunch & Movie will be on **Tuesday, April 18**. Lunch menu and movie selection will be announced later—keep an eye on our website and Facebook for updates.

As a reminder, there is no charge to come watch the movie. We only ask for a \$5 cover to help with the costs of lunch if you choose to have lunch with us as well.

Iron That Sharpens

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

- Proverbs 27:17, ESV



Have you been on this earth long enough to remember the old pencil sharpeners that required you to turn a little crank to sharpen your pencil? It was usually attached to the front wall or the blackboard in the classroom. Some students forever turned that little handle and sharpened their pencils, allowing the metal to rub away the rough edges. I mean, no one likes a dull pencil. We all loved to have pencils with super sharp edges and a fine pointed lead tip.

Similarly, the Bible tells us that some friends can be like this in our lives. They can sharpen our dull edges, press us to be more alert, and challenge us to be better individuals.

Do you have any friends like this?

- Friends like iron that sharpens your iron.
- Those who press you higher and encourage you.
- Friends who make you better and smarter.
- Those who push you further than you ever thought you could go.

Why not take a little time today and invite God to give you more friends like this?



Prayer – *Lord, I need more iron and more sharpening in my life. I do not want to be dull and without purpose or passion. Bring some individuals who will challenge and inspire me to do greater things in my life.*

Excerpt from <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/30814-21-days-to-sweeter-friendships/>

God Bless, Chaplain Sarahbeth Simonson

Quarterly VFW Luncheon at Olive Garden



We had 22 people attend our second VFW Quarterly Luncheon held in February. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to gather with friends, especially during the dark cloudy days of last month. Our next luncheon will be held on **Tuesday, May 16**. We're open to discovering new locations that can handle a gathering as well as the Olive Garden has done. Where's your favorite lunch spot?

Memorial Day Ceremonies & The Patriotic Council

Our VFW Post & Auxiliary are members of the Wenatchee Patriotic Council. The purpose of the Council is to plan and execute the annual Memorial Day celebrations that take place around our community. The events listed below will take place on **Monday, May 29th**.

This year, we're starting at the **Wenatchee Cemetery at 9am** with the presentation of colors, wreath laying in honor of all who served and sacrificed in service to our country, taps and a rifle volley from the Honor Guard. Additionally, Wenatchee Mayor Frank Kuntz is the guest speaker for this event.



At **10am**, a smaller event will take place mid-span of the **Old Wenatchee Black Bridge**. This ceremony is to honor all those that served at sea. A ceremonial wreath will be tossed into the Columbia River by Mayors Kuntz and Jerrilea Crawford.

At **11am**, the exact ceremony that took place at the Wenatchee Cemetery will be repeated at **Evergreen Memorial Park** on 10th Street NE with East Wenatchee. Mayor Jerrilea Crawford will be the guest speaker at this event.



The day's ceremonies conclude at **Pybus Public Market at 12 noon** with the raising of the colors followed by a rifle volley and the playing of Taps. Commander Pieratt has the honor of giving a short patriotic speech to conclude the official events of the day.

Afterwards, at approximately **12:30pm**, the auxiliaries of the American Legion and VFW will host a **free luncheon** for participants at American Legion Post 10 in Wenatchee.

Don't forget, flags will be lowered to half-staff for the start of Memorial Day and raised to full-staff at 12 noon.

Looking for Interest in VFW Riders Group

Greetings everyone, I am a recent transplant from Lincoln Nebraska now residing in Ephrata, WA. I am looking to start a local chapter of the VFW Motorcycle Riders Group. Any VFW or VFW Auxiliary members in good standing that may be interested in becoming charter members feel free to contact me for further information.

Robert (Hale) Enlow

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2023 Fundraising Event

Saturday June 10th 3:00 - 9:00

Union Hill Cider Co.
 988 South Union, East Wenatchee
BBQ Provided by R-Shack BBQ



3:00	BBQ & Silent Auction Opens
4:00	Opening Ceremonies
4:00 - 6:00	Live Music
6:15	Silent Auction Closes
6:30 - 7:00	Presentations
7:00 - 9:00	Live Music

All proceeds from Auction & Donations will go toward funding the 5 annual events, operating expenses, and hiring guides throughout the year to take veterans & first responders on smaller trips.

Annual Events

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| May 13, 2023 | Operation Bass |
| June 3, 2023 | Operation Kokanee (Ladies) |
| July 15, 2023 | Operation Salmon |
| August 12, 2023 | Ladies & Lures |
| September 30, 2023 | Operation Walleye |

To learn more or to sign up for an event go to: operationcatchingfreedom.org

OCF Mission is to unite military veterans and 1st responders by offering no-cost fishing adventures in the Pacific Northwest. Rivers and lakes provide an atmosphere of peace and calm, opening opportunities to develop friendships that will last beyond the boat.

Veterans of Foreign Wars
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