



# Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

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July 2021

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## Commander's Letter

Greetings everyone! I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and spirits as we're getting back to normal following the unprecedented global pandemic we've all struggled through past 15 months. I want to thank you for whatever part you played in keeping infection rates and illness in our Valley to a minimum. Just looking at the numbers, we fared extremely well compared to other communities around the world, some of whom are now facing increased infections and new restrictions. Whether it was getting vaccinated, wearing masks, or limiting your social circles, **thank you for doing your part!**

The Post will start back with our monthly potluck dinners and meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month. For this month the meeting will be on **July 21**. Dinner at 6pm followed by VFW & Auxiliary meetings at 7pm. The Friday Community Coffee Break is back open as well from 0900-1030. Hope to see you at one of them!

I just received our 2021-2022 Youth Scholarship Program materials for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Youth Essay. Our school districts in the Valley have vastly improved their student and parent communications system due to the online education requirement brought on by COVID. Thus we're able to reach out to directly to the students. We'll send out the first scholarship notifications in the coming weeks.

The Bingo Committee will be meeting later this week to investigate getting our Friday Night Bingo back up and running. One major change from previous years is we're going to have to look at the feasibility of hiring a bingo manager. Previously, Larry Strozyk has volunteered as the bingo manager, but Larry has earned a well-deserved rest from this duty. I haven't had anyone volunteer to take his place as this will take 6-8 hours per week to perform the duties of the manager. We have begun our search for qualified candidates to take Larry's place. If interested, please contact myself or Dave Schwab.

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Commander: Brad Pieratt; Adjutant/Newsletter: Connie Hill

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As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the joint VFW & American Legion Picnic will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> at Walla Walla Point Park, Shelter #2. Please watch for the flyer on our website and FB Page starting in August.

We will be holding a **VFW memorial service** for long-time member **Merle "Stan" Stanhope on July 17** starting at 2pm at the Post. Stan passed away last year on December 24<sup>th</sup> and will be going home to the Bitterroot Valley in Montana for burial in September. A separate memorial for his Wenatchee Valley family and friends was arranged for those of us that aren't able to travel to Montana.

A special thank you to everyone that had a part in keeping the post up and running under the radar during the past 15 months. We answered the mail, returned phone calls, paid the bills, and provided a safe facility for the Douglas County Veteran Service Officer to meet with her clients and provide those critical services to our veterans.

Hope to see everyone in the near future as we get back to business!

Brad Pieratt, Commander

### **Welcome New Members!**

Ray Dobbs

Adam Basford

Joel Swenson

Mike Warden

## Officers for 2021-22

### **POST**

Commander: Brad Pieratt  
 Sr Vice Commander: Jose Solis  
 Jr Vice Commander: Steve Johnson  
 Quartermaster: Dave Schwab  
 Chaplain: Sarah Simonson  
 Surgeon: Gerald Anglin  
 Adjutant/Newsletter: Connie Hill  
 Judge Advocate: Charlie Suriano  
 Trustees: Ed Reinfeld  
 Gerald Anglin  
 Don Dent

### **AUXILIARY**

President: Shirley Lance  
 Sr Vice-President: Judy Ebi  
 Jr Vice-President: Angela Fillion  
 Secretary: Bicky LaRoque  
 Treasurer: Char Lauer  
 Chaplain: Billie Reynolds  
 Conductress: Carol Trunzo  
 Guard: Dee Johnson  
 Chief of Staff: Leona Wolk



## Auxiliary President's Letter

I hope this finds everyone well after this trying year. It will be nice to get back to a little normality. I can't wait to see everyone in person at the July meeting. Dinner and a meeting what fun! Even though we were limited in what we could get done the Auxiliary was able to do a lot. We kept busy and tried to complete many of our usual programs.

Dee and Kim kept in touch with members who were staying at home and not able to have visitors. Carol was our rock star, keeping us on top of projects for the nursing homes and the Orting Soldiers Home. She hand-made Valentines and sent them to many of our Post veterans. Bicky hand wrote cards numerous times and sent them to the nursing home residents: she wanted them to know they were not forgotten. In honor of the nurses at the VA CBOC, we provided a pizza lunch. Kim spear headed this project and delivered the pizza. The CBOC was truly surprised by the recognition. They do so much for our veterans, we were happy to do something for them.

It was nice to get to celebrate Memorial Day this year. Many of our members attended the Memorial Day Services and the Veterans luncheon. Even though we were not able to carry the Fallen Soldiers Banners this year we did remember our Veterans at the Classy Chassis parade. Before the parade started we handed out small flags to the spectators and asked them to remember our Veterans. On Flag Day (the following Monday), Dee and Steve Johnson helped put flags on the Post fence (photos at <https://vfwpost3617.org/events/flag-day-2021/>). We had many comments from people in the neighborhood so this may become a new Flag Day tradition. Many of our members attended the Flag Retirement. This was a very moving ceremony.

Convention was very interesting. It was the first one I was able to attend. I learned a lot. I now understand what a difference the small things we do make in others' lives. Our Auxiliary members received a number of awards including a Community Outreach Award and a Healthy Auxiliary award. A special "WhooWhoo" to Marge Singleton: The beautiful poppy quilt she donated to the Honor Flight received an award for Best Use of Color. It was a beautiful quilt and some lucky veteran on the next Honor Flight will receive it as a gift.

The National Auxiliary President, will be coming to Wenatchee in September. She will be at our Post for a Pancake Breakfast on September 25th. After breakfast she will be going to the Leavenworth Autumn Leaf Festival Parade and then a dinner will be held in her honor in Cashmere the evening of the 25th. We will have more information on her visit in the next newsletter. We will be busy on the 25th as that is also the date of our joint veterans picnic.

Take care everyone and I hope to see you all at the July meeting!

~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President

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## Wenatchee Valley Veterans Picnic

In conjunction with American Legion Post 10, our annual VFW picnic has morphed into an "All Veterans" event. Veterans, friends and family are all invited, regardless of affiliation or membership with the American Legion, the VFW, or any other veteran organization. In fact, the American Legion post in Manson as well as the VFW post in Chelan have also been invited to this event.

Mark your calendars for **25 September** 2021, and come down to **Shelter #2 at Walla Walla Point Park** between 11am and 3pm. We'll have the grill going and drinks available. Bring a side or dessert of your choice, rest in the shade, and let the kiddos play in the water or on the playground.

Hope to see you there!

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## Leadership & Volunteer Opportunities

One of the key things that keeps organizations like the VFW alive is the involvement of its members. Within our Post, there are a number of opportunities for you to volunteer your time and/or skills. You don't need to take on more than you can handle, and most things can be tailored around your availability and level of interest (outside of any deadlines).

Some current opportunities (including but not limited to):

- Kitchen Manager
- House Committee
- **Buddy Poppies table volunteers**
- Youth Essay Committee
- Safety Committee Chair
- VA Van Driver
- **Honor Guard / Color Guard**
- Annual Awards Committee
- **Membership & Recruiting**

If you would like more information about any of these roles, would like to volunteer for any of these, or just have questions, please reach out Commander Brad Pieratt, Auxiliary President Shirley Lance, or a member of the committee you'd like to join.

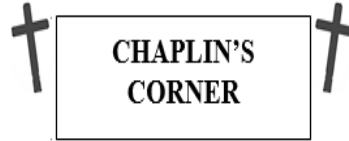
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## Centennial Planning Resumes



Our Post will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary next year (charter date 29 March 1922). While the original planning had to be put on hold because of COVID, we are finally able to revisit the ideas for events to take place during 2022 to both honor our history as well as look forward to continued service to Veterans in our community.

If you are interested in being part of our Centennial Planning Committee, our next meeting will be **Friday, 23 July at 1pm via Zoom**. For call in or connection information, or if you have any questions, please reach out to Committee Chair Connie Hill at [vfw3617adj@gmail.com](mailto:vfw3617adj@gmail.com) or 509.433.7879



*Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing. - 2 Thess. 1:3*

Greeting Comrades,

I am glad to call you all brothers and sisters. As we open back up and look forward to a bright summer I want to encourage you to reach out to one another. Check in on your friends you may not have heard from in a while. Plan a walk along the Loop Trail or to meet up in the shade at a local park. As you reach out, I pray God blesses you and your friends with health, peace, and joy.

- Sarah Simonson, Chaplain

**TAPS - Remembering those we've recently lost**

Merle "Stan" Stanhope

Gene Yost

Dick Vickers

Leo Estes

Gerald Smits

Charles Simms

## From the Editor

Our website continues to grow and expand, and can serve as a central location for a variety of information.

**[www.vfwpost3617.org](http://www.vfwpost3617.org)**

A copy of our newsletter is available, along with information about the various programs we run, past and upcoming events, and more. The Members Only area (for both Post and Auxiliary members) is used for things like specific volunteer opportunities and past meeting minutes. If you need help signing up for access, or just can't find something on the website, please reach out (email below).

Also, 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 5 Sept, so the deadline for submissions is 30 August. 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](mailto:webmaster@vfwpost3617.org)

Thanks,

- Connie Hill, Adjutant / Newsletter / Webmaster

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