



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

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Commander's Letter

As the weather gets cooler and we approach Fall in a couple weeks, I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. Enjoyable as possible given our extreme heat and a worsening pandemic. But honestly, I hope you did have some fun these last few months.

In consulting with the Chelan Douglas Health District a few weeks ago, their Public Health Advisory recommendation was to halt all in-person gatherings and shared meals (donuts on Fridays and potluck dinners) while we're experiencing this surge in the Delta variant of COVID. Three weeks ago we had several close calls with VFW & Auxiliary members being notified they were exposed to either family members or friends that had active cases of COVID-19. Fortunately, everyone got tested, quarantined, and none of them came down with the virus. But this episode showed us that the lag time between exposure and testing confirmation could be as long as a couple weeks. More than ample time to become infected and unknowingly spread the virus to others.

The 3rd week of August I shut down the post until we confirmed everyone involved had tested negative and went through a 10-day quarantine. Additionally, at about the same time, the governor put the entire state back into mandatory masking indoors. This means we have to go back to virtual coffee breaks and having our in-person monthly meetings without potluck dinners. I apologize for having to do this, but we don't have any other options. Currently, Chelan & Douglas counties have one of the highest infection rates in the state, twice that of King County! Please get vaccinated, wear a mask, and stay away from the crowds. We as a community have to pull together to get through this, otherwise we've got a long Fall, Winter and Spring ahead of us. Enough soapbox...

SPRIT OF AMERICA MEMORIAL Please join us on September 11th at 11am at Cashmere Riverside Park, 201 Riverside Drive in Cashmere, for the annual remembrance ceremony. The Memorial is dedicated to all those who perished on September 11, 2001. It provides a tribute, honoring the victims and those who risked their lives during the 9/11 tragedy. Guest speakers this year will be **David and Peggy Beamer, parents of Todd Beamer who was lost on United Flight 93 when it crashed in Pennsylvania.**

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Commander: Brad Pieratt; Adjutant/Newsletter: Connie Hill

(Continued from page 1)

2020 PATRIOT'S PEN COMPETITION Last year's Patriot's Pen winner for our Post was **Rachel Carter of Valley Academy of Learning in Wenatchee**. Her essay on "What is Patriotism to Me?" was very impressive and a clear winner at our Post level. It was forwarded to VFW District 7 for their competition, where it again was judged as the top entry. All of the District essay winners from around the state were then sent to our Department Headquarters for the state competition. Rachel's essay was judged a very respectable 5th place. With the pandemic conditions around the state in January and the VFW Department Mid-Winter Conference cancelled, the normal Youth Scholarship Ceremony and Awards Presentation was held off until this summer's VFW Convention when the scholarship prizes and award certificates were presented to Post Commanders to bring home. In July, Rachel and family were invited to Friday Coffee for a surprise presentation of her Dist. 7 and Department of Washington scholarship awards and certificates. She was also presented a custom made pen donated by Comrade Gary Rose for her future essay endeavors. As a 9th grader this year, we'll be keeping an eye on this young lady as she's already started on her 2021 Voice of Democracy speech. Good luck Rachel!



AUTUMN LEAF FESTIVAL PARADE The VFW Department of Washington Color Guard will lead the opening ceremonies with the presentation of colors at the 58th Leavenworth Autumn Leaf Parade held on September 25th starting at 12 noon. In attendance this year will be the National VFW Auxiliary President Jean Hamil from Orlando, FL, VFW Department of Washington Commander Chad Hassebroek, and Department Auxiliary President Barbara Moore.

WENATCHEE VETERANS STAND DOWN The annual Veterans Stand Down will be held **September 18th** 8am—3pm at the National Guard Armory on 5th Street in Wenatchee. In addition to the VA being there, several non-profit veteran organizations will be there to help with housing and job assistance. Bring your veteran ID or DD-214 to enter.

FLAG DETAIL TEAM In addition to the normal Honor Guard and Color Guard details throughout the year, we also maintain several permanent flag locations in East Wenatchee. Every time we get a Presidential or Governor's proclamation to lower the flags to half-staff, it takes a team of 8-10 dedicated members to accomplish this in a timely manner. Sites we maintain are the Douglas County Law & Justice Center on 19th Street with 7 flags; the large 20x30 flag at Pangborn Airport (which can take up to 5 people); and the two flagpoles located at the Post. At times, all members are not available, usually due to the short notice nature of proclamations. Most details are carried out in the early morning before 9am, or after 6pm in the evening. If you would like to help us out with these details, please contact me or Jr Vice Commander Steve Johnson to add your name to the list.

IN CLOSING We have a lot on our plate in these next few months, but in our current conditions, we have to stay vigilant to short-notice changes or cancelations. We will try our best to communicate quickly any changes to our plans. Please stay informed on our local news and check our website (<https://vfwpost3617.org>) or Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/vfwpost3617>) prior to planned events to ensure they haven't been canceled by higher authority.

Have a wonderful Fall and enjoy the cooler weather. Hope to see everyone again very soon!

Brad Pieratt, Commander



Auxiliary President's Letter

I am hoping this letter finds everyone well and enjoying this interesting summer. Between Heat, COVID, and Fires what can we say. Hopefully things will improve as we go into Fall. I am optimistic that cooler weather will help settle things down.

The Auxiliary is trying to keep active and continue planning programs as we move forward. We were able to continue **Operation Homefront** with the Dollar Stores. Dee

Johnson and Kim Pieratt collected the school supplies donated at the Dollar Stores and Char Lauer stored and sorted them. We did not have as many donations as in years past and were only able to supply Rock Island Elementary in the Eastmont School District and Mission View Elementary in the Wenatchee School District.

September 25th is looking to be a very busy day for the Auxiliary. We will start at 7:30am, hosting breakfast for the National VFW Auxiliary President, Jean Hamil. All of you are invited! Breakfast will be: scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, hash browns, pancakes and fruit; cost is by donation. We will clean up the kitchen and then head to the Veterans Picnic at Walla Walla Park. We will be hosting a table with craft and art supplies for the children. After the picnic we will head to Cashmere for the President's dinner. The Aisle of Flags ceremony will be at 6:00pm with a Social at 6:30 and dinner at 7:00. Can the 25th get any busier?

September 26th is Gold Star Family Remembrance Day. The Auxiliary will be sending a card and gift to a Washington Gold Star Family. As of this date we have not decided which family we will be honoring. If you know of a Gold Star Mother or Family please be sure and reach out and recognize their sacrifice. We must make sure all veteran families have our support.

We will also be working on our Community Outreach Project. We have not decided which local organization we will partner with this year, but we will be voting on it at our **Sept 16th meeting**. It has been suggested that the Humane Society could use our help. Last year we partnered with the Lighthouse Ministries and had a very successful coat and clothing drive, wherein we were able to provide warm gear to the patrons using the Lighthouse for their lunch that day. If anyone has a suggestion for this year please let me know before our meeting.

We are sorry we had to cancel the Auxiliary Garage sale that was to be on August 28th. We are hoping to re-schedule it for early October. If you had things to donate please hold them until we can get a new date. If you love garage sales we hope to see you there when we finally get to hold one. We will try to let everyone know through the Post website (vfwpost3617.org).

Welcome New Auxiliary Members!

Karen Peele

Sherry Meadows

Pat Morey

Barbara Miller

In closing I hope everyone stays safe and enjoys our last warm days of summer and cooler days of fall. Hopefully none of our upcoming events will be canceled, but know that it is out of our hands if we must cancel on short notice. Keep a smile on your face and know things have to get better!!!!

~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President

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Wenatchee Valley Veterans Picnic

The VFW and American Legion Post 10 are joining forces again this year to sponsor our annual picnic open to all veterans and their families. Join us on **September 25th at Walla Walla Point Park's Picnic Shelter #1**. We had originally reserved Picnic Shelter #2, but the PUD failed to mention that there would be a "Food Truck Rodeo" right next to the shelter. This would complicate our parking availability and just make things too crowded. A flyer for the picnic is posted on both VFW and Legion websites.

Picnic starts at 11am and runs until 3pm. Menu for the day will be hamburgers, hot dogs, and bratwursts with chips, desserts and drinks. For entertainment we'll have games for the adults as well as for the younger crowd. Additionally, a membership table will be available for both organizations to answer any questions you may have about what we do for veterans.

As with everything we do, it only happens with the generous support of volunteers. That is the key to both the VFW and Legion's success here in the valley and this picnic is no exception. We can always use some help with the setup, cooking, and cleanup. If you'd like to lend a hand, even for a couple hours, contact the picnic committee at both our organizations to volunteer your time.

Hope to see you there, and don't forget to bring your own lawn chairs, as there is limited seating!

Buddy Poppies

Buddy Poppy Day is scheduled for **Saturday, November 6**. We plan to be at most retail grocery stores in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee, Cashmere, and Leavenworth this year. If you're interested in helping out by volunteering to hand out poppies, please **contact the Post after October 11** when we'll have the signup sheets for store locations and times available. This will be 2 years since our last poppy drive and we need your help to boost our Veteran's Relief Fund. Thank you in advance for helping.



Zoom Meetings Information

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.

Post Meeting

15 Sept & 20 Oct @ 7pm

Meeting ID: 815 7531 2898

Passcode: 996024

Casual Coffee Chat

Fridays @ 8:30 - 10:30am

Meeting ID: 824 7355 0756

Passcode: 187796

District 7 Meeting

18 Sept @ 1pm

Meeting ID: 829 7910 5333

Passcode: 922685

**CHAPLIN'S
CORNER**

Have you ever struggled because you know God can do anything, but you can't understand why He doesn't seem to be intervening in your situation right now? You're trying to hang on to hope, but the more time passes without any apparent change, the harder it is.

In Proverbs 13:12, we're told, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life." The word "deferred" in this verse refers to a hopeless situation that feels long and drawn out. It's the seemingly unending and disappointing kind of season that can leave us tempted to look at our lives and question, Why is God withholding this from me? Since He's not intervening, I'll just try to fix it myself in my way.

Your life may be dark and confusing today. But make no mistake — there is a powerful work happening. And Jesus wants us to hear Him saying, "Eve turned to the wrong tree and received death. I hung on a tree to bring you back to life. I am the fulfillment of your every longing. I am your Tree of Life. Look to Me."

Prayer: Father God, You keep showing me that I don't need answers. I need Jesus. Help me stop the madness of my own assumptions of how things must turn out. My soul was made for assurance. And that is exactly what You have given me. The divine assurance of Your Son. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

From: What I Really Need Most, Published on 8/26/21, Author Lysa TerKeurst (<https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2021/08/26/what-i-really-need-most>).

- Sarah Simonson, Chaplain

Website Updates

Be sure to visit our website when you get a chance. Aside from updates related to our upcoming events, you can read messages from National leadership as well as see stories being shared of our members being active in our community. For instance, we have recently added some photos of the Pangborn Flag Detail replacing the large US flag at the traffic circle (<https://vfwpost3617.org/news/pangborn-flag-replacement/>).

While you are there, you can also sign up for our email list (<https://vfwpost3617.org/news/newsletter/>) to get newsletters and other updates sent directly to your inbox. This is still somewhat new, so emails are sent infrequently.

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 5 Nov, so the deadline for submissions is 30 Oct. 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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