Outlook

Scuttlebutt

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VFW-Vancouver Logo

Scuttlebutt

February 2026

VFW7824.org

Commander

Hello Post 7824 Comrades and All organizations at the Post,

February is here already - it's crazy how fast the months and years go by these days.

Last month Barry Hesketh and I attended the VFW Department of Washington Mid-Winter conference and banquet in Tacoma. It was a good conference and nice banquet that honored our State Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners. Teacher of the Year winners were also announced. It was very nice to recognize the youth and teachers in our communities and state. Our District 6 Voice of Democracy winner (Nina) came in 3rd place in the state. She is a student at Washougal High School. The High School Teacher of the Year also came from Washougal High School. I have left the booklet with all the VOD essays at the Post. Perhaps you have seen it already? If not, please give it a look - they are all impressive.

Cynthia and Larry Ross were also at the conference for specific training sessions. One session in particular included the Department Commander, Department Quartermaster, and a State Liquor Board representative. This is the first time in the past four years that a Liquor Board representative has provided training. As a result, it has been decided that we need a Policies and Procedures (SOP) type document at the Post. John Motter (JAG/Legal), Tonya Wark (Community Service), and Travis Hudson (House Committee member) will begin working on this document with guidance from myself, Cynthia, and Barry. This document will feed into future Post Bylaws, House Rules, and potentially other committee purposes. Thank you to John, Tonya, and Travis for taking on this project. More to come in the coming weeks and months.

Our next set of Post Bylaws does not expire until March 2028, so we still have time. However, the plan is to complete them sometime in 2026. Once signed off and submitted to National via the Department for approval, they will be valid for five years. We were planning to vote on them last month, but since we have time, it is best to ensure they are solid and well supported by documented policies and procedures.

In January, membership approved a $5 cover charge for live band nights for everyone in attendance while the band is playing. This was very successful, and the cover charge alone paid for over half of the band. Initially, we planned to have one band per month until summer; however, after further

discussion with the House Committee, Michelle is planning to book a second band per month starting in February. See Michelle's Scuttlebutt input for details.

Membership and recruiting update: We are currently at 93.9%, with 682 members in good standing (dues paid or lifetime members). Our goal is 727 members based on last year's numbers (100% plus one). This will be a major focus for the Senior Vice Commander and myself over the next few months, and I will be asking others to assist. All recruiting ideas are welcome, along with plans to coordinate and implement them.

Looking ahead to March, we will open the first round of nominations for Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, and Trustee #3. These roles are for the 2026-2027 VFW year. If you are interested, please let me know and I will explain the responsibilities of each position. In April, we will hold a second round of nominations and vote at the April membership meeting. Following officer elections, we will open nominations for the House Committee position that Cynthia is stepping away from, with voting to follow in May. The new VFW year begins July 1.

More to come as we get closer.

Senior Vice Commander Barry has signed Post 7824 up for the VFW Day of Service on Saturday, May 2. We plan to once again participate in exterior cleanup around the Post and along Andresen Road, similar to last year's successful effort.

The next three membership meetings are:

- Thursday, February 12 - 7:00 PM
- Thursday, March 12 - 7:00 PM
- Thursday, April 9 - 7:00 PM

The next Post all-hands town hall will be Sunday, March 29, from 4:00-5:00 PM, prior to the Queen of Hearts drawing.

Starting in March, the Scuttlebutt will include input from the Military Order of the Cooties and Auxiliary leadership.

Thank you for your service and continued support of VFW Post 7824 and Washington District 6.

Please keep all members experiencing serious or declining health conditions in your thoughts and prayers.

Please utilize the Suggestion Box on our Post website here. Also, visit our website for updates and communications.

Update your email address-and encourage others to do the same-if you are not receiving the Scuttlebutt. Email Matt Wells at web@vfw7824.org.

Let's remember to support and respect our Kitchen/Canteen staff, veteran members, and guests.

The next meeting is 12 February 2026 @ 1900

Thank you respectfully in Comradeship,

Greg Gilbertson
Post 7824 Commander

Auxiliary President

February is the RED month!

Red Shirt Fridays - February 6 is Women’?Ts Heart Day - February 14 is Valentine's Day.

Our Auxiliary had our first meeting of 2026 on January 22 with only 13 members present. We are happy to have added 5 more members. Our membership now stands at 255, which is 108% of quota.

We voted to support two special projects:

Department President Robin Sterret is promoting Heroes Homestead in Clayton, WA - a retreat center for military members and families to receive help with PTSD.

National President Lois Callahan is promoting the Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarships. More information for both can be found at vfwauxwa.org.

Vietnam Veterans will be able to enjoy a free lunch again this year on Saturday, March 28, from noon to 2:00 PM. This was a great success last year, and we look forward to another great event.

I'll take this opportunity to ask Auxiliary members to think about becoming part of the leadership of your organization and our Post. The time has come for me to pass the gavel, and there are many qualified members who should step into leadership roles. I have been honored to serve as your president for four years.

The next Auxiliary meeting is 26 February 2026 @ 7 PM at the Post.

Be Kind - Be Loyal

Marie McEnry
President, VFW Post 7824 Auxiliary

Canteen Manager

Hello everyone-did we survive the first month of 2026? I do hope everyone had a good month. Mine could have been a tad better with the recent loss of Layne Brady. My heart is still a little broken, but he's given me the strength and knowledge to carry forward. I'll never forget anything he ever taught me. If you knew him, you were blessed. He has been a major role behind the scenes for our Post since 2013. May he rest in peace.

As far as updates from the Canteen and Kitchen, unfortunately Luci will be leaving our volunteer bartending staff at the end of this month. We are very sad to see her go, but we hope to continue seeing her smiling face in and around the canteen.

I would like to touch base on our recent $5 cover fee for band nights. First off, thank you to everyone who came out last month - it was a great turnout.

This month, I will be prepared with a stamp for those who come to enjoy our live music entertainment.

By implementing this small fee, it will allow us to add one more night of live entertainment this month.

Mark your calendars for Friday, February 13 - this will be our Valentine's Dinner starting at 5:00 PM, with live entertainment by the Slim Jim's at 7:00 PM. There will be no karaoke on Valentine's Day, February 14.

Our next live entertainment will be Friday, February 20, with music by the Boneheads.

Friday, February 27, we will bring back our Friday night BINGO game.

Saturday, February 28, we are looking forward to a themed evening of Hot Havana Nights. This will be a fun event - one of our members will be teaching a salsa dance. Put on those shirts and dresses and come enjoy the fun!

Super Bowl is this weekend, February 8th. We will have our Queen of Hearts drawing during halftime, and this will be a potluck. Please bring a dish or snack to share as we watch the game.

I believe that covers the events for this month.

Looking ahead to next month, mark your calendars for our Saint Patrick's Day celebration with corned beef on Saturday, March 14, from 5:00-7:00 PM.

We will also be holding another themed party in March - Western Night! Break out the hats and boots for a kickin' good time.

Friday Dinner Menus (starting at 5:00 PM)

- 02/06 - Prime Rib
- 02/13 - Creamy garlic chicken, rice, vegetables, fried shrimp, and side salad - $15.00
- 02/20 - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and vegetables
- 02/27 - Crusted pork loin, scalloped potatoes, and vegetables

I think that will wrap it up for us this month.

I hope everybody enjoys the month ahead, and please try to stop by and show some support. Remember, we can't do what we do without you. Do your best to stay healthy and safe. May God bless us all.

Michelle Rex
VFW Post 7824 Canteen Manager

AMVETS Commander

Dear members,

-- No update provided --

Scott Wilson
AMVETS Commander WA 6

AMVETS Auxiliary President

The Ladies AMVET Auxiliary will **not** be holding a meeting on February 5th. Sorry for the late cancellation.

We currently have 24 annual members and 13 lifetime members. Please plan to attend future meetings so we can come together and introduce our new members to the organization.

Thank you,

Debbie Patten
Lady AMVETS Auxiliary President

Upcoming Meeting

- **12 February - VFW Monthly Meeting**

  Join us for our monthly post meeting to discuss upcoming events and initiatives.

  7:00 PM - 8:00 PM | VFW Post 7824

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