Outlook

Scuttlebutt

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VFW-Vancouver Logo

Scuttlebutt

January 2026

VFW7824.org

Commander

Hello Post 7824 Comrades and All organizations at the Post,

I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season with family and friends. I know we were very busy at the Post with Holiday Parties and other Holiday, New Years Eve, Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Youth Activities awards night events. We held our second all Post Town Hall in early December, great participation and discussions. We were also busy with Community Service events at the Vancouver VAMC and in the Vancouver/Clark County area supporting the Veterans, which is and will continue to be our focus. I thank everyone that was involved in set-up coordination, and execution in Post and community service events. All in all, I think it was a very successful month. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! You know who you are who helped.

Winter is here with colder weather and potentially hazardous road conditions be prepared and let leadership know if you need anything.

Important reminder that the VFW Membership meeting will be held on Thursday January 15th. at 7 PM, not on January 8th. Barry Hesketh, our Senior Vice Commander and I will be attending the VFW Washington Department/State Mid-winter conference and banquet January 8-11th. in Tacoma. Michelle and Cynthia will be joining us on January 9th. for the Canteen specific training session. Hopefully we'll gather some valuable insights to bring back to our January 15th membership meeting, as well as our other upcoming meetings.

On the 15th. I will go over more specific numbers of where we stand on the Department VFW Dashboard in Recruiting/Retention of VFW Membership and Community Service numbers. We are looking good in both areas. Currently sitting at 93.3% membership on the National Dashboard. The Goal by June is to be 100% plus 1 new member to be considered for the National and Department awards by the end of June. Membership is going to be my personal focus for the next couple of months as June gets closer. We currently have 46 documented Community Service participation events for the second quarter (Oct.- Dec.). We are only required to have 10 documented events per quarter. We are doing awesome in that category. We finished the first quarter (July- October) with 53 documented community service. I think we have been doing all these community service events in years past. However, a lot of them were not documented on the Department program reporting page. We are getting them documented now.

Old Business that I am aware of:

We will discuss and vote on as a VFW membership body will be the Bylaws that the review team has completed and received input from our Department JAG, Jason Paxton. Thanks to Matt Wells, working with Jason to get this ready for a membership vote. Once we vote they will be sent to National for signature and will be good for 5 years. VFW members should have seen the bylaws proposals in your email. One sent in November and again in December and one more will be sent before the meeting on the 15th. Please review and bring any questions to the meeting.

The vote for the band night cover charge will take place. Discussion from the November meeting was to charge $5 for non-Veterans JUST ON BAND NIGHTS! while the band is playing. After further discussions with others, I think it is prudent to consider just charging everyone in attendance, including Veterans $5 when the band is playing, again JUST ON BAND NIGHTS! I only mention this to give you a heads up because of the previous discussion during the November meeting, this will help reduce the cost of the bands. We never made a motion in November; it was just opened as a discussion point during new business. As Michelle mentions in her Scuttlebutt entry, we are only planning to have one band per month in 2026 as of right now. We might adjust a little during the summer months, maybe two band nights? To be determined though.

For the non-band nights proposals mentioned to me: Music Bingo Nights, Trivia Nights, Family Movie Nights, Comedy Nights. I am not opposed, and I do not believe the House Committee is opposed to anything new. We just need people to coordinate and lead those events. Any other ideas are welcome but, remember if you propose an idea, I am going to expect you to step up and lead those events/ideas with a plan of coordination and action. The band we had on New Years Eve "Dance Floor Mafia" was great, and they were sponsored and paid for by all the Organizations at our Post: VFW, VFW Auxiliary, AMVETS, AMVETS Auxiliary. Great team effort!

I really want to do our best to keep our meetings at the one-hour mark or shorter as best we can. I know we have had changes that have brought on discussions taking meetings beyond one hour. That's good we are getting more people involved and engaged. I really appreciate that.

Another reminder: Breakfast at the VAN Mall Retirement center with their Veteran Residents is always the 3rd. Wednesday of each month. So, January will be January 21st. at 0730. Please let John Jablonski know at - janjohnj@comcast.net

Looking down the road. We will have nominations and voting for Post VFW Officers in March/April and for one House Committee position in May. If interested in any of these positions, reach out to me if Officer related, Cynthia Ross if House Committee related. July 1st. is the new VFW Year and that's when all newly elected members will start in their positions.

Please keep all members who are 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 let others know to update theirs if they are not receiving the Scuttlebutt. Email Matt Wells at web@vfw7824.org.

Let's remember to support and respect all of our Kitchen/Canteen staff and our Veteran membership and guests.

The next meeting is 15 January 2026 @ 1900

Thank you respectfully in Comradeship,

Greg Gilbertson
Post 7824 Commander

Auxiliary President

Happy New Year!
I hope your holidays were special and that you have wonderful memories with family and friends.
The first Auxiliary meeting of 2026 is Thursday, January 22 at 7 PM at our Post home.
We have several new members to initiate as well as events to plan for the months ahead.
Our distribution of food boxes went well, and many thanks go to the volunteers who participated in this worthwhile project. The Clark County Veterans Assistance Center was the recipient of the extra food items that were left over.
The District 6 meeting will be Sunday, January 25 at 10 AM in Woodland. These meetings are very informative and provide insight into what other Posts and Auxiliaries are doing to support our Veterans.

The December Auxiliary meeting is 22 January 2026 @ 7 PM at the Post.

Be Kind - Be Loyal

Marie McEnry
President, VFW Post 7824 Auxiliary

Canteen Manager

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME TO 2026!
I hope everybody enjoyed the holidays and has by now figured out what day of the week it is...
I'm looking forward to a productive year ahead.

I have a couple of canteen updates and then I will get on with the menu.

Since December 1st, we have been opening our grill in the kitchen at 2 PM Monday through Thursday, with the canteen opening at noon. I want to remind everybody that we now have a cook in our kitchen on Wednesdays as well as Fridays beginning at noon.
Thank you for your patience as we try to come up with a plan that works both for the post and our members.

Secondly, for the first few months of this year, we will only be having one live music event a month. We hope to fill an occasional Friday with some new events, such as music bingo or even a movie night. We will update you as we add these events.

The VFW and its Auxiliary officers will be attending the Midwinter Conference this coming weekend. I�?Tm excited that the VFW Department is offering a class for posts with canteens. I will be attending that class and look forward to bringing back some information for the improvement of our canteen.

Friday, January 16 will be our only live music event this month. Our band will be the Pacific Rhythm Band, starting at 7 PM.

Friday Dinner Menus (starting at 5 PM)

- 01/09 - Crusted pork loin served with potato and vegetable
- 01/16 - Shepherd's pie served with a salad
- 01/23 - Broccoli and beef served with rice
- 01/30 - Chicken enchiladas served with Spanish rice and beans

Monday Dinner Menus (starting at 5 PM)

- 01/19 - Liver and onions
- 01/29 - Chicken and waffles

Michelle Rex
VFW Post 7824 Canteen Manager

AMVETS Commander

Dear members,

Happy New Year to all AMVETS members. Thank you for your service and support.

Reminder: The AMVETS meeting will be held on January 8th instead of the 15th, due to the VFW Membership meeting moving to the 15th.

Scott Wilson
AMVETS Commander WA 6

AMVETS Auxiliary President

Happy New Year to everyone!

2025 was an exciting year for the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. We added quite a few members. Thank you all for considering membership in our organization, getting involved, and keeping up to date with your dues. This helps us all support our Veterans.

Our Blind Auction in March brought in $1,833, which all went toward Veterans Relief and food boxes. We are looking to have another auction this spring, keep your eyes open for it.

We were happy to donate $250, along with the AMVETS, for the Canteen volunteers for Christmas. Additionally, we contributed $275 for the New Year's Eve band, who were amazing!

Looking forward to this year being better than ever!

Debbie Patten
AMVETS Auxiliary President WA 6

Upcoming Events

- **15 January - 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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