

What a Year!

2020 certainly threw us all for a loop. Between a global pandemic and civil unrest, many unpleasant facets of modern society finally saw the light. Discussions are being had, change is being sought, and we've got a brighter future ahead if we just keep working towards it, together.

I hope you were able to take some time this winter to reflect on the year behind, and start dreaming about the year to come. There's a lot of potential in 2021.



I also want to note some changes in this month's newsletter. As a reminder, the Vets Gazette was started to bring more traffic to the website. With that goal in mind, a lot of the stories I'm sharing have already been posted online and I've included the URL so you can quickly visit the site, read more details, and see more photos. All links are clickable within the digital version. If you don't already receive it via email, be sure to sign up at www.ncwveterans.info/gazette/. And if you can, please find a way to share these stories with your fellow veterans who may not be as digitally inclined so we can all stay connected and informed.

New Wenatchee Veterans Hall



Veterans in the Wenatchee Valley may know that the Wenatchee Veterans Hall (formerly at 512 S Chelan Ave) has been looking for a new space to call home for a while now. Well, there's some good news: the former banquet hall of the Eagles building (1202 North Wenatchee Ave) has been selected and renovations have begun.

In mid January, I was able to meet with three of the Board members for this new organization. They explained how they are focused on managing a safe space where Veterans come first.

Full story: <https://www.ncwveterans.info/news/the-new-wenatchee-veterans-hall/>

Regarding COVID-19

Please understand that while the vaccines are coming out, it is going to take time for enough people to receive them. There are a number of factors involved with distribution, and it is recommended to stay in touch with your primary care physician to know when it will be made available for you. Please exercise patience when trying to get more information.

While you are waiting, after you receive it, and until enough of our population is inoculated, you'll want to keep up with the best practices for health and safety already established during this past year:

- Wash your hands often, keep them to yourself when out
- Give plenty of distance between you and others
- Wear a mask or face covering when with other people

If you want the most reliable information, always check in with the most reliable sources:

World Health Organization: www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

WA Department of Health: www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus

Veterans Affairs: www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/



Vet Corps Service Project

One of the requirements that members in Vet Corps must meet each year is to complete at least one major service project. This December, three of our local Vet Corps members joined forces to complete a service project, helping a veteran with a safety improvement at their home.

Read the full story (with more photos) at:

<https://www.ncwveterans.info/post-pride/vet-corps-service-project/>



What's Up Vet!



Our Vet Corps Navigators have come up with a COVID-safe way to stay in touch and be available to answer questions about veteran benefits: **weekly Zoom chats**.

Join our Navigators Jose Solis, Trent Mortensen, Mark Harle, and Joe Garek every Tuesday and Thursday between 2-4pm via zoom. No registration required.

Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358564972> or visit Zoom to Join and enter **Meeting ID 863 5856 4972**

These chats are open to all veterans, spouses, dependents, or anyone who might have questions for a veteran. The Navigators will be answering questions about resources, benefits, going back to school, or any other info that may come up.



Civil Air Patrol

<https://www.ncwveterans.info/tag/civil-air-patrol/>

Our Squadron had several promotions and awards given out to start off the new year. Congratulations to all members on their achievements!



TRAINING

Captain Audra Keyanna earned Professional Development Level 3 Award, and Senior rating as Administrative Officer. Cadet Airman Zachary Wiser, new member as of October 2020, has earned his pre-Solo wings and hopes to complete his Solo flight within the next few months.

PROMOTIONS

- Austin Jeffris to c/Master Sergeant
- Sophia Black and Isaac Black to c/Tech Sergeant
- Connor Hawk, Zachary Wiser, and Ezekiel Edmondson to c/Airman



AWARDS

On Jan 4, c/A1C Oliver Cawdery received the **Outstanding Cadet of the Squadron Award** from the Air Force Association. This is generally given to an NCO cadet with more time in the program, but Cadet Cawdery stepped up to the plate and took a leadership position as Element Leader.

Captain Audra Keyanna received the **Group Commander's Achievement Award** for Outstanding Duty Performance.

Cadet Lt Colonel Ethan Larson earned the **General Ira Eaker Award** on Jan 21, and continues to study for his General Carl Spaatz Award, which would promote him to full Cadet Colonel.

From Your Veteran Service Officers



Tony Sandoval
Chelan County VSO
428 Orondo Ave,
Wenatchee
9am - 4pm Mon - Thurs
(509) 667-6906
tony.sandoval@
co.chelan.wa.us

No update received before publication.



Sarah Simonson
Douglas County VSO
211 11th St NE (VFW Post
3617, East Wenatchee)
9am - 3pm Tues - Friday
(509) 683-3605
vso@co.douglas.wa.us

No update received before publication.

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Pam Stevens
Okanogan County VSO
1 Tonasket Shop Rd
8am - 3pm Mon-Thu
8am - 2pm Fridays
(509) 486-2121
vso@co.okanogan.wa.us

Jerry Gingrich
Grant County VSO
(509) 754-2011 x2931
jtgingrich@grantcountywa.gov

Virtual Workshops

The pandemic has not stopped us from providing valuable training to get you back into the workforce. WorkSource is now hosting virtual workshops to help with your career change, interview process, and more.

Visit www.worksourcewa.com

In the top menu bar, hover over Career Tools and select Workshops & Hiring Events from the dropdown that appears.

Navigate to the Workshops Tab, then select the nearest location to you (most of us are under Central) to see all available workshops.

Registration for these workshops is required, but as with all of our trainings, it is free. Once you've spotted a course you'd like to take, be sure to click the Sign Up button to register.



WorkSource Veteran Reps:

Eileen Boylston

Eboylston@esd.wa.gov

(509) 766-4111

Terrie Garcia-Hernandez

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(509) 423-6678

County Veterans Advisory Boards

In accordance with WA RCW 73.08.035, each county in Washington state must establish a veterans' advisory board, which shall advise the county legislative authority on the needs of local veterans, and the resources and programs available to benefit local veterans, and their families, in need. These advisory board meetings are open to the public.

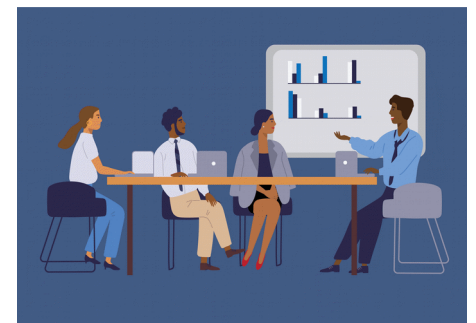
Okanogan County VAB meets on the **first Tuesday of every 3rd month at 1pm** at the US Armed Forces Legacy Building (Tonasket). Next meeting is **02 March 2021**.

Grant County VAB meets on the **second Wednesday of every 3rd month at 4pm** in the Commissioners Hearing Room of the Grant County courthouse (35 C St NW, Ephrata). Next meeting is **10 March 2021**.

Chelan County VAB meets on the **third Thursday of every other month at 1:30pm** at the Chelan County Commissioners Building (400 Douglas St, Wenatchee). Next meeting is in Feb.

Douglas County VAB meets **monthly on the first Friday at 10:30am** at VFW Post 3617 (211 11th St NE, East Wenatchee). Next meeting is TBD.

Because the pandemic has forced changes on regular meetings, some VAB have gone virtual while others have put their meetings on hold. The best contact for more information about any of these meetings is the respective County Service Officer. Please check out this link for more information including direct links to contacts:



<https://www.ncwveterans.info/useful-information/county-veteran-advisory-boards/>



American Legion

While monthly in-person meetings may have been canceled or restricted for health and safety concerns, I've listed the normal meeting times here for reference. Please check with each Post for complete details.

Post 10 (Wenatchee)
208 N Wenatchee Ave
(509) 663-5912

Post 28 (Ephrata)
276 8th Ave NW
(509) 754-2761

Post 56 (Okanogan)
860 N 2nd Street
(509) 826-2610

Post 64 (Cashmere)
401 Sunset Highway
(509) 782-4973

Post 82 (Tonasket)
319 S Western
(509) 486-2382

Post 84 (Oroville)
314 14th Ave
(509) 476-2761

Post 97 (Brewster)
102 N 3rd St
(509) 689-3307

Post 108 (Manson)
142 Pedoi St
(509) 888-3831

Post 143 (Twisp)
626 Bridge St
(509) 997-5322

Post 157 (Electric City)
31 Coulee Rd
(509) 631-1839

Post 209 (Moses Lake)
538 W Broadway
(509) 765-1126

Post 10, Wenatchee

Our annual Christmas Basket program raised \$6782, allowing us to purchase and distribute 135 \$50 Fred Meyer gift cards to needy veterans and families in the area.

Monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

Post 28, Ephrata

Monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

Post 56, Okanogan

Monthly meetings on 3rd Monday at 7pm.

Post 64, Cashmere

Monthly meetings on 1st Thursday at 7pm.

Post 82, Tonasket

We've been able to remain open, even with restrictions - we offer lunches for dine-in or take-out Mon-Sat 10a-5p. We're hosting a spaghetti feed (by donation) with raffles on Super Bowl Sunday. Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/Tonasket-Legion-Post-82-102571164821793/](https://www.facebook.com/Tonasket-Legion-Post-82-102571164821793/)

Monthly meetings on 1st Monday at 5pm.

Hodges Post 84, Oroville

Monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

Columbia Post 97, Brewster

Monthly meetings on 1st Wednesday at 6pm.

Manson Post 108

Reminder: temp meeting location change, now in the Hub at North Shore Bible Church, 123 Wapato Point Pkwy, Manson.

Monthly meetings on 1st Monday at 7pm.

Methow Post 143

Monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

Post 157, Electric City

Monthly meetings on 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

While monthly in-person meetings may have been canceled or restricted for health and safety concerns, I've listed the normal meeting times here for reference. Please check with each Post for complete details.



Post 24 George
Meets at Quincy Senior
Center (even months) /
Moses Lake Elks Lodge (odd
months)
(509) 750-0938

Post 3617 Wenatchee Valley
211 11th St NE
East Wenatchee
(509) 884-3617

Post 6853 Chelan
427 Bradley St, Chelan
(509) 679-4949

George Washington Post 24

Monthly meetings on 2nd Saturday at 10am.

Post 3617, Wenatchee Valley

We are now hosting a causal Coffee Chat on Friday mornings, as well as our regular meetings, via Zoom. This allows us to stay in touch safely while still handling Post business.

Monthly meetings on 3rd Wednesday at 7pm.

Post 6853, Chelan

Monthly meetings on 1st Tuesday at 6:30pm.

Generous Giving by Manson Post 108

During the past few months, I've received a number of updates from Manson American Legion Post 108 on all they've been doing. I wanted to point out a couple of positive highlights here, and encourage you to visit their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost108] and the NCW Veterans Info website for more details on each.



First, Post 108 made a donation of \$1,000 to Heritage Heights, the only senior living facility in their area, for Christmas. Read the story:

<https://www.ncwveterans.info/post-pride/manson-american-legion-aids-heritage-heights/>

Next, Post 108 created a new Teacher Grant program for teachers in the Manson school district who might need a bit of extra financial support as they modify their curriculum to a nontraditional format. There are 4 grants each worth \$250 that will be awarded early in February. More details:

<https://www.ncwveterans.info/post-pride/post-108-announces-teacher-grant-program>



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Editor's Notes

Winter is almost over my friends. We've made it this far, and we're coming around the bend to longer days. As always, thank you for your continued support, whether it be in the form of donations, responding to my emails, or just sharing the website and the information found within it. I love that I get to keep doing this, updating the site, putting together the newsletter, and keeping everyone informed. Please keep sending me stuff to share!

While last year kind of threw a lot of my plans out the window (particularly surrounding print distribution), I was still able to focus on making NCW Veterans Info better by improving the website. Have you seen it yet? What do you think of the new design?

I hope this year I can continue the refinement of my little Passion Project, either by finding new/better ways to get the information out there, or by trying to reach more people overall. Your ideas and suggestions are welcomed - my contact information is over there --->

Stay warm, safe, and healthy, and stay in touch.

~Connie

NCW Vets Gazette is a newsletter for Veterans in North Central Washington, provided free of charge in print and digital form courtesy of NCW Veterans Info. It is made possible with thanks to the continued support of VFW and American Legion posts across the region, NCW Vets Serving Vets, other local veteran organizations, as well as Sponsors & generous community members (like you).

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www.ncwveterans.info/support

24/7 Support
 Crisis Line:
800.273.8255
 Vets4Warriors:
855.838.8255

**Mann-Grandstaff
 VA Medical Center**
 4815 N. Assembly St - Spokane
 (509) 434-7000 (800) 325-7940
www.spokane.va.gov

Wenatchee VA Clinic (CBOC)
 2350 Chester-Kimm Rd
 (509) 663-7615
 weekdays 7:30am - 4pm