

Cautiously Planning the Year Ahead



Hopefully you have a little bit of green indoors with you to remind you of the growth that lies ahead.

Welcome to another year everyone! No doubt it's been rough these past few, but we are Veterans - adaptable survivors who care about our community. We can handle it, and do, and will, to the best of our abilities. But that doesn't always mean we need to take action right away.

Winter is a time of rest and recuperation, of contemplation and planning, and of looking ahead. So while there isn't too much action coming up in the immediate, there's plenty in the works for later in the year, I'm sure of it. We are all anxious for Spring to get here, so we can finally get rolling on all of those projects we've been thinking about all winter, right?

Just be cautious. Don't jump too soon. We still have a few weeks or more of cold and snow ahead of us, so use them wisely. Continue to rest, dream, and plan. Do research about the topic, collect those valuable resources, and read. Consider all of the steps involved in your project, make checklists, and prepare what you can now. Talk to friends and family members - maybe they will be able to help in due time.

Wenatchee Wild Hockey

Military Appreciation Night

Presented by Guild Mortgage

Friday, 18 February

Doors open at 6:00pm

Game starts at 7:05pm

Join the Wild in celebrating our military! The Wild will be wearing custom jerseys in honor of our US military. Be sure to check out the jersey auction during and following the game.



Last Chance to Apply for This Year's Supernova Business Launch Competition

I've talked about this event before and will continue to support it, because I believe it is a worthy cause for community organizations to encourage new business development by providing the tools for success from the start. Supernova Business Launch Competition does just that, helping "small businesses and their owners by giving them the business tools, counsel, and support (and potentially \$10,000!) they need to get their new small business off to a strong start".



While this event is intended for any entrepreneurs, it's focus leans on people who may experience certain barriers to traditional employment. This includes veterans, people with disabilities, people without a high school diploma or GED, unemployed youth, justice-involved individuals, women, and underrepresented minorities. There is no limit to the type of business you are starting, only that it be located in North Central Washington (Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan, and Ferry counties and the reservation of the Colville Confederated Tribes).

The application deadline has been extended to **18 February**, and no more than 20 applicants will be accepted into the competition for this year. Apply today!

<https://www.supernovabl.com>

The Bunker's Annual "Veterans Appreciation" Dinner Returns

On **Friday, February 18**, the NCW Vets Serving Vets (the Bunker) is hosting the 17th annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner. The event is being held in the **LocalTel Event Center at Pybus Market** (3 N. Worthen St, Wenatchee) **from 5 - 8pm**. Admission is free to all veterans and their significant other. Please bring and plan to show your VA ID card, your Veterans Organization card (such as American Legion, VFW, "Confederate Turtles"), or even your DD214 as proof of your veteran status. Mark your calendars and spread the word! Brighten your life and shake off those late winter blues by being part of this tribute to you and your national service.

We will have food for 100 (catered by Country Boys BBQ). When it runs out the event will still go on. If you plan on arriving late there might not be any food. Never fear, there will still be lots of comradeship and refreshments to go around, and probably a snack or two.



Live patriotic and easy listening music is being planned. This event is going to be "suitable for framing" in your memory book! See you there!

If you have questions, please direct them to Jose Solis, event chairman, through the Bunker at 509-885-5559.

Social Security Disability and Veterans Affairs Disability

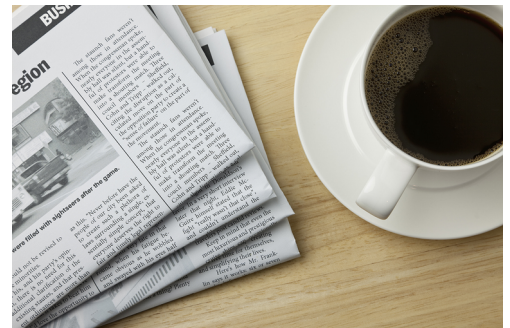
“Both the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administer programs that pay disability benefits to eligible individuals. The differences between the programs these agencies administer can be confusing.

“Each agency must follow its own definition of disability, as directed by laws drafted by Congress. Therefore, an individual who is eligible for benefits under a program administered by one agency is not automatically eligible for benefits under a program administered by the other agency.”

Please visit <https://ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-125.pdf> for a Fact Sheet that introduces each program and compares them to each other. Also check out <https://www.va.gov/disability> and <https://www.ssa.gov/people/veterans> for more details about each program.

Reminder: Share Your Story

One of my original intentions for NCW Veterans Info <https://www.ncwveterans.info>, besides being a Resource Hub, was that it would become a **Regional Veteran News Outlet**. I love the idea of sharing stories from all over the region, so folks in northern Okanogan county for instance can still keep up with or be inspired by the activities of veteran groups in southern Grant county or another not-so-distant area in North Central Washington.



But since I can't be everywhere at once, especially since I don't drive, I need YOUR help to collect stories and tidbits so I can spread the news. In case you didn't know, YOUR input really fuels this newsletter and the blog on the website.

Don't think you have to write the story yourself, though. Just send me an idea or a lead, something I can ask questions about and dig deeper into. Think “My Post just did this Service Project...” or “[Company] did [patriotic thing] and community members recognized them for it.” or “I just found out veterans get [free or discounted thing] at [location]”. Or maybe you saw an interesting article pertaining to veterans – send me those too. I can probably expand on it.

I also really like getting photos and hearing about your recent events. Fundraising events, service projects, community meals, etc. And interviews with veteran business owners are a fun way to raise some additional awareness and create connection.

For photos or links, please send emails to ncwveteransinfo@gmail.com . You can also use the form at www.ncwveterans.info/news/share-your-story/ to send me story ideas.

Prefer to send postal mail? **PO Box 3849, Wenatchee WA 98807** (*Items received by mail will not be returned unless a self-addressed pre-paid envelope is provided by the sender*)

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

Our office continues to stay busy working for our Veterans. Thankfully we have Trent Mortenson as a secondary Service Officer, and Jose Solis, our new Vet Corps Navigator.

Recently our program tri-fold handout was updated with more and new information. You can pick one up the next time you see us at a local event, or visit <https://co.chelan.wa.us/veterans-program>, scroll down and select Resources on the left then click on “Chelan County Veterans Resource Pamphlet” on the lower left of that page.

The next Chelan County Veterans Advisory Board will be meeting on 17 March at 1:30pm both at the Wenatchee Veterans Hall and on Zoom. Email our office for Zoom connection details.

We’re also working on a fresh new Facebook page coming soon.



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

Be alert! Scammers find ways to get your personal information or access to your accounts in many different ways. Be aware of the official ways important organizations contact you. If you are unsure about something or feel pressured to respond to a request for personal information, please first reach out to a trusted friend, family member or other local organization you know before providing any sensitive information. Be aware that those wishing to scam you will often times make you think it is urgent enough to pressure you into responding before being able to verify their legitimacy. Know your true options by looking up **the official contact information** from whatever organization the possible scammer is saying they are from. Do this **separately from any links or phone number the possible scammer gives you**. Just a couple extra minutes of research could save you time and money.

Okanogan County VSO

Tom Even

1 Tonasket Shop Rd
 8am – 3pm Mon–Thu
 8am – 2pm Fridays

(509) 486-2121

vso@co.okanogan.wa.us

Grant County

Jerry Gingrich

Handles county veteran fund,
 provides assistance vouchers
(509) 766-5015 x5212
(509) 237-2162
 vets@grantcountywa.gov

Fil Rivera

Accredited Service Officer,
 handles Claims
(509) 629-1735
 riverph@hscis.net

“VSO Power Hour”



Curious about Veterans benefits? Thinking about opening a VA Disability claim? Considering the first steps of Pre-Planning and Survivor benefits? Or maybe you just want to hang out with a Veteran Service Officer on your Wednesday lunch break.

Starting **09 February**, the Chelan County Veteran Service Office will be hosting a new **VSO Power Hour** on **Wednesdays from 11am to noon via Zoom**. Think of it as a virtual open house. More details coming soon. Watch Facebook and the website for announcements, or contact the office directly for connection information.



Civil Air Patrol

Read all of the CAP updates:

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



TRAINING

Capt Audra Keyanna, C/Ssgt Grey Olin, and C/Amn Ezekiel Edmondson recently attended the Washington All Mission Academy in Ephrata. The Academy includes classes on Aerospace Education, Emergency Services, Cadet Programs, and more.

PROMOTIONS

Cadet Zachary Wiser was promoted to C/Tsgt.
Senior Member Douglas Gardner was promoted to 1st Lieutenant.

RECENT EVENTS

Holiday party was held on 14 Dec and included the collection of toys and clothing gifts for families at The Grace House.

Seven of our cadets served at the color guard for the Wreaths Across America event hosted by VFW Post 3617 on 18 Dec at Evergreen Memorial in East Wenatchee. Additionally, the Squadron received 414 wreath sponsors this year!



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
3rd Monday at 7pm

Post 64 (Cashmere)
401 Sunset Highway
(509) 782-4973
1st Thursday at 7pm

Post 82 (Tonasket)
319 S Western
(509) 486-2382
1st Monday at 5pm

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
1st Monday at 7pm

Post 143 (Twisp)
626 Bridge St
(509) 997-1527
2nd Thursday at 7pm

Post 157 (Electric City)
31 Coulee Rd
(509) 771-5796

Post 183 (Quincy)
(509) 760-8124

Post 209 (Moses Lake)
538 W Broadway
(509) 765-1126
2nd Tuesday at 6pm

American Legion



Post 10, Wenatchee

We would like to thank everyone who donated to our Christmas Basket program – the generous donations totaled nearly \$5,800, allowing us to present 31 veterans and families with Fred Meyer gift cards in December. Special thanks goes out to Wenatchee Golf & Country Club for their single donation of nearly \$2,000!

Monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

Post 28, Ephrata

Our annual Crab & Prime Rib Dinner will be Sat, Feb 26 at 6pm. Limited seats, so get your tickets early. We will be hosting our annual Boys & Girls State Dinner & Auction on Sat, March 19 at 6pm – donations for the auction are still needed. Plans for the Spring Swap Meet & Vendor Market in April are well underway.

Monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

Post 84, Oroville

Our annual Kid's Christmas Party on 17 Dec was a smashing success! With the new year, our activities are picking up – we are sponsoring Boy Scout Troop #26 again (they use our Hall for meetings and fundraising events), we are starting up a regular Poker Night, and are planning for our annual Crab Feed to be in early April.

Monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

Columbia Post 97, Brewster

We will be hosting a Valentine's Chalk Couture class on Sat, Feb 5, at noon. Come learn a new craft and take home a beautiful project to keep or gift. Limited seats, cost \$30.

Monthly meetings on 1st Wednesday at 6pm

Post 157, Electric City

We continue to host monthly blood drives organized by Vitalant. We are also very active with the local food bank – the Post regularly supplies 60-70% of the workforce needed for food distribution.

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

Post 183, Quincy

Next post meeting will be 12 Feb at **Jack's at the Market** (1004 F St SW, Quincy). Coffee/Breakfast (optional) 8am, meeting at 9:30am.

Monthly meetings on 2nd Saturday at 9:30am.

Veterans of Foreign Wars



George Washington Post 24

Monthly meetings on 2nd Saturday at 10am.

Post 3617, Wenatchee Valley

We will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our Post this year on March 22. Specific events are still in the works, but watch our Facebook and website for updates. Our Auxiliary is collecting submissions for the youth art contests, one of which is actually a singing contest! Entries are due by March 31.

Monthly meetings on 3rd Wednesday at 7pm.

Chelan Post 6853

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

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

Wenatchee Valley Veterans Hall

Hello Veterans and Community Members. We at the Wenatchee Valley Veterans Hall would like you to know we are working to get the construction done and hoping to have a grand opening soon!

Come check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WenValleyVetsHall/> and keep your eyes peeled for updates and events.

The Wenatchee Valley Veterans Hall is a non-profit organization formed to manage a facility that supports local Veterans Organizations and Individual Veterans by providing a meeting place and event venue either free or for a small usage fee. Located at 1206 N. Wenatchee Ave.



Tuesday Coffee

Looking for some camaraderie with fellow veterans? Come to the **Wenatchee Valley Veterans Hall** on **Tuesdays** from **8am-9:30am** for coffee, donuts, and a casual atmosphere to relax and just chat with folks who “get it”. No division, no competition, no expectations, just some friendly conversation with those who have also worn the uniform.

Editor's Notes

Sometimes I am in awe of time. As I looked back over past issues seeking a bit of inspiration, I realized just how much time has passed since my first issue, what has changed (events and in-person gatherings), and what has stayed the same (my goals for the website and the newsletter).

I am also in awe of the continued support I receive from the veteran community. No matter how much I pester and prod via email, you all still reply and keep me in the loop – thank you for that!

As we move into a new year, I'm looking both back and forward. Back to what has been accomplished, and forward to what I need to do or perhaps what I might want to do differently. That being said, I'm looking for a different sort of feedback from my readers – What sorts of stories, information, etc would YOU like to see? Both added to the website and included here in the newsletter? I have my own ideas, but I can't produce the content out of thin air.

As I mentioned in my intro to this issue, we are still in the hibernation and planning stages. Lots of thoughts mulling about, research and planning behind the scenes....

But until I am ready to share more, stay safe, stay 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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whatsnew@ncwveterans.info
ncwveteransinfo@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/ncwveterans

Quick Links

Main Website:

www.ncwveterans.info

Newsletter archive & sign-up:
www.ncwveterans.info/gazette

Searchable Directory:
www.ncwveterans.info/resources

Regional Events:
www.ncwveterans.info/events

Donate:
www.ncwveterans.info/support

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

24/7 Support

Crisis Line:
800.273.8255

Vets4Warriors:
855.838.8255

Your AD Here



Veteran
Owned

Free
Estimates

509-264-2050

Your AD Here