

Whitehead-Muzzall VFW Post 7392

3037 Goldie Road, Oak Harbor <https://vfw7392.org>

November 2022 Newsletter

Post Commander

Charles "Chuck" Bond

Where did October go? Can you believe it's already Thanksgiving week! As a result and due to recent commitments, the holidays and competing priorities the Post Newsletter will be released every other month for now and we are targeting mid-January for the next Newsletter. I am grateful for all the newsletter feedback and my hope is to have a good balance between information and pictures. Additionally, we are scrubbing our email lists for newsletter dissemination however, we will continue to have hardcopies available in the canteen. I appreciate your patience as we improve our communications.

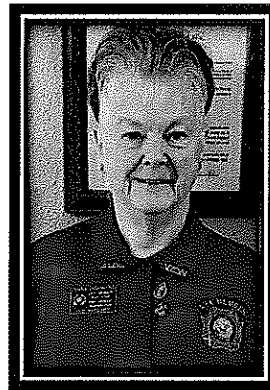
In September, we had some amazing work done to our Post, which I called "a much-needed facelift." A number of organizations worked with our Building Committee Chair/Immediate Past Commander Bill Thiel improving the look inside and outside the Post. Hunts Military Communities' Project Manager Eteinne "Mendi" Mendizabal proposed their community project be our Post, without which we would have not been able to receive so much work. Numerous organizations helped out including Evergreen Storage & Transfer, Harbor Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning, Jersey Mike's, Ulrich Enterprises LLC, Sherwin Williams (Oak Harbor and Bellingham stores), Malliard Landing Nursery, A+ Cleaning Services, and Total Landscaping Corporation (TLC). In addition, several Post Members pitched in including Mike & Courtney Cherry, Sr. Vice Brandon Vice, Jr. Vice Julie and Aux Member Aaron Doran, and Quartermaster Keith Wooldridge.

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Auxiliary President

Diana Hammond



The VFW Auxiliary has remained very busy around the Oak Harbor community and have participated in several events including making crafts with the Theta Rho Girls, throwing a successful Kids Halloween Party with the assistance of the Oak Harbor High School JROTC cadets.

We treated our Firemen with a cake to say, "Thanks for keeping our homes safe," and we donated 84 Christmas cards to the National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, to wish them a very Merry Christmas. In addition, we took 160 bags of treats to Regency of Whidbey for Halloween, which they so enjoyed the treats. We also did Operation Homefront Holiday meals and continue to do Poppy Drives.

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!!!



More pictures on page 3

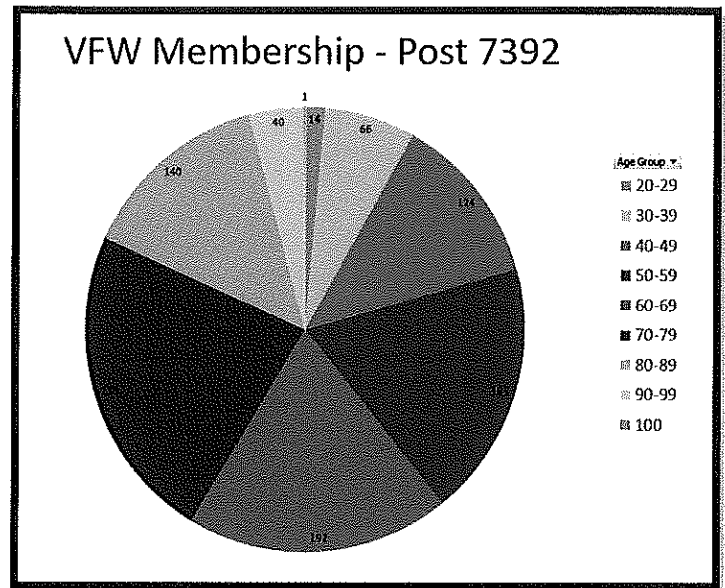
I am sure I missed a few, so my apologies. This Helping Hand Volunteer Day was a huge success and we are extremely grateful. Well done everyone!!!

In October, the carpet was replaced on the canteen side for just under \$24,000. Most of the cost was covered by a \$20,000 grant from Island County, leaving the Post paying for about \$4,000 and it was a well-spent investment as the last time we replaced the carpet was in the early 80s. As an added benefit, the Post smells much, much better and the slightly lighter color brightens up the room. We will begin putting up all the plaques after the holidays so the canteen staff can put up holiday decorations. Additionally, and we will be reorganizing the entrance to better to welcome you and your guests. We have also setup the POW/MIA table back where it used to be. If you have not dropped by recently, please do so soon and check out all the great work!. Hope you agree that our Post looks and smells much better.

We remain the second-largest Post in Washington State at 992 members. We ended the VFW-year (30 June) at 998, but after reconciling our numbers from death and non-payment of dues, we fell back to 945 starting 01 July. With 807 Life Members in our rolls, we are projected to end up at 992 provided our remaining 79 Continuous (Annual) Members remain with us. Our current retention is at 41.40%, so we should get back to 945 (100% membership). Over the past two years, we have lost 34 members and that is too excessive. If we work hard to communicate with every member of our Post, we should not lose anyone this year. We continue to bring into our ranks new and reinstated (welcome back) members, and so far our top recruiter is:

Quartermaster Keith Wooldridge at 22 – BZ Keith!!!

Our National President challenged every one of us to bring in (or back) one member into our ranks as Every Veteran Counts! I would love to see 50 members with at least one recruit as that would get us over 1000 members! I ask each of you to help bring in one recruit and more importantly, help mold them into a productive member of our Post. I asked Rob Armer to break down our membership by age so you have a better understanding of where our membership is:



As you can see above, our oldest member is 100 years old (Murdoch MacDonald currently living in Arizona), while our youngest members are both 23 years old (Jonel Veloso and Charles Messmer. The bulk of our membership is over 60 years old (603 members).

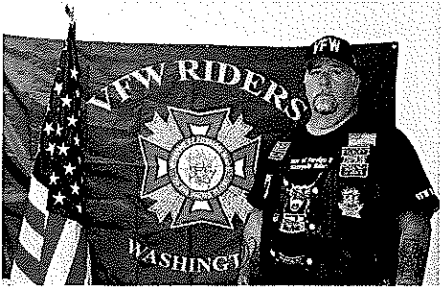
There were a number of Veterans Day celebrations last week including our Oak Harbor schools. Thank you for attending them. Last Saturday our awesome VFW Riders Group Chapter 1 held a Ringing of the Bell ceremony at the Post Memorial Garden. What a solemn ceremony where the names of our Fallen were read. Well done Comrades!!!



Hard to believe that 1/3 of my year is over, but know that there is still much work to be done... Know that I am grateful for your service. I am extremely honored to be your Commander. Please have a Happy Thanksgiving Day and stay safe!!!

See you at the Post, chuck

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



Greetings Everyone! My name is Jerry Busig, and I am the current President of the Chapter 1 Riders. Since this is my first official addition to our Post newsletter, let me give you a small recap of what we've done thus far. Beginning in July, there was the 4th of July Parade in downtown Oak Harbor. In August, there was the 2nd Annual Riders BBQ in the V-Dome. The month of September had multiple functions that the Riders participated in, but the most noteworthy was on 9/11. We met early at the post that morning, met up with several other groups in Bow, and rode to the Peace Arch at the Canadian border. At the ceremony, we were honored to be lead in prayer by our own Bill Phillips! October was a quiet month. November is pretty busy for all of us! On the 4th, we made our annual donation to the Northwest Region USO and on the 5th, we had the honor of participating in the largest Veteran's Day Parade this side of the Mississippi in the great city of Auburn. You can still view the parade on the KOMO 4 website. On the 19th of this month, we hosted our Ringing of the Bell ceremony lead by Dean Whistler, Department Chairman of the VFW Riders. Upcoming events of note include a Chili Cook-off on January 14th. Our meetings are on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1830.

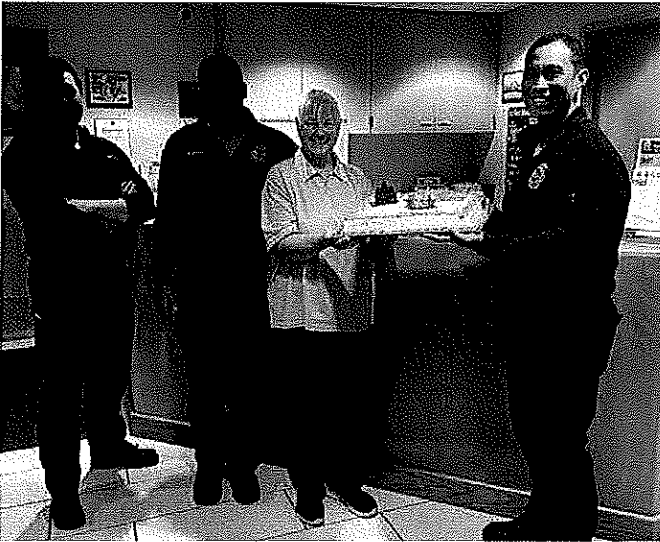
Jerry "3-IN-1" Busig
President
VFW Riders Chapter 1



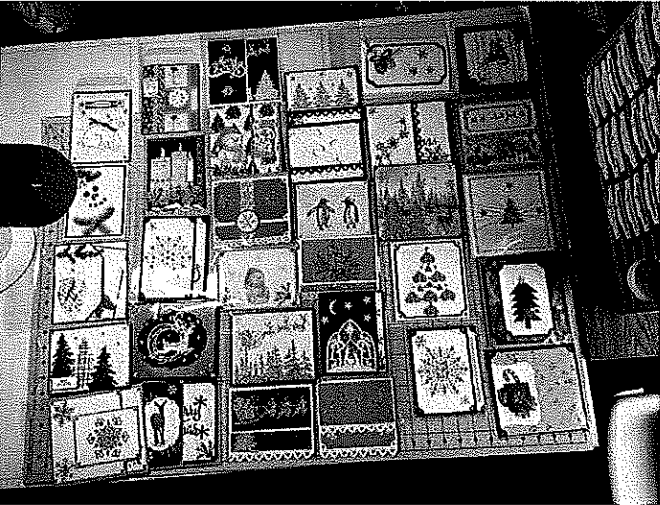
Kids Halloween Party



Firehouse visit by the Auxiliary President



Cards for the VFW National Home for Children



Halloween bags for Regency of Whidbey residents



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Next Monthly Meeting will be December 6, 2022

House – 1730

Joint (Post/Aux) – 1830

Post & Aux – 1900

2022-2023 Post Officers

Commander

Charles "Chuck" Bond

Sr. Vice Commander

Brandon Vice

Jr. Vice Commander

Julie Street Doran

Quartermaster

Keith Wooldridge

Adjutant

Mark Johnson

Judge Advocate

Chris Kinkel

Surgeon

Perry Taylor

Jr. Past Commander

William "Bill" Thiel

Chaplain

Bill Phillips

1-Year Trustee

Richard "Tex" Morris

2-Year Trustee

Chris Kinkel

3-Year Trustee

Jeff Williams

Service Officer

Bill Phillips

Building Committee – William "Bill" Thiel (chair)

House Committee – William "Bill" Thiel (chair)

Recreation Land Committee – Julie Street Doran (chair)

Membership Investigating – Brandon Vice (chair)

Every Veteran Counts

