



**Fleet Reserve Association
Inland Empire Branch 38, Inc.
Spokane, Washington**
www.frabran38.org

February 18, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Introduction of non-member guests and visiting shipmates:

the Blessing of God was given by Branch Chaplain Dennis McCully/

Pledge of Allegiance (Page 4)

Preamble to the Constitution of the Fleet Reserve Association (Page 4)

The meeting was convened at 10:10 am.

The Minutes of the January 2023 meeting were read and approved.

Standing Committee Reports

Americanism-Patriotism Chair, **Anna Martin** reported that the Essays are now at NWR Chair for judging.

Hospitals, Welfare & Rehabilitation – Chair, **Michelle Davis** was not present so no report for this committee.

Membership & Retention – Chair, **Michelle Davis** was absent but Branch Secretary Burke reported that we have a new Branch 38 member, Gary L. f Renton, Washington. He was invited to join us via Zoom.

Shipmate Burke reported that we have received the 3rd Qtr Membership Report

Public Relations – Chair, **Peg Burke** stated that the Quarterly Bulletin will be coming out in March with some major changes coming up for the Branch as a result of the first item under New Business.

Veterans Service – Chair, **Dave Lord** was not present, but sent an email: “He has completed the second VSA training of the year and continues to learn the complex changes of VA Health Care. For the members that I am assisting in claims, please understand and have patience as VA is struggling with reviews. He state he is just as frustrated as his claimants are that they are not getting the benefits they deserve. For the members considering burn pit and Camp Lejeune claims, please **do not hire a TV lawyer company** to represent you. Allow any **accredited VSO** to assist you, myself or Cheri Knox at Mirabeau Park Vets Center. Thank you for your confidence in me and please do not hesitate to contact me when you have questions.”

We also received a report from the NWR National Representative’s on National Committee Meeting he attended online/

Youth Activities – Chair, **James Grisham** reported that he nothing to report this month.

Communications received since the February 2023 meeting were presented and discussed. This included items from the National Mailing List and an email from the NWR Legislative Chair.

Treasurer's Report as of 2/28/2023 was given.

Unfinished or Deferred Business

2023 Northwest Regional Convention – will be held August 18-19, 2023, at the Holiday Inn in Nampa, ID. It will be sponsored by Gem State Branch 382. Room Rates are \$110 per night with no tax. The rates are good August 15 through August 21, 2023. Phone the hotel directly at (208) 468-0944 and tell them you are with the Fleet Reserve Association block. Deadline for reservations at this rate is July 17, 2023. After that it will be on space availability.

2023 FRA/LAFRA National Convention will be held September 23-30, 2023 at the Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, Nevada. The room rates are \$102 plus 13.5% tax and a \$2.00 Tourism Fee per night for a single or double. There is a fee of \$10 per person for each additional person, with a limit of four per room. The hotel provides a free shuttle service to and from the Reno/Tahoe Airport. The reservation link for the hotel is posted on the FRA Website if you wish to make reservations that way or you may call either of these numbers: 1-800-648-1177 or 775-356-3300. **Be sure to use the code GFRAC23.** If you need to make reservations for an ADA (handicap) room you need to call the hotel directly and not use the link. **A standard ADA room has a tub/shower with grab bars, but if you need a roll-in shower this will need to be specified also. The rooms with roll-in shower are in the other tower so additional walking will be needed,** (but if you are using a scooter it shouldn't be any problem). Remember as with any hotel the number of ADA rooms is limited so please make your reservations early. If you want a room other than the standard king/double queen room you will need to call directly to reserve (**do not forget to use the code GFRAC23**). **The reservation cutoff date is 31August.** All rooms have a refrigerator and a Keurig coffee maker. Though Keurig cups are provided, if you drink a lot of coffee or like a special brand it is recommended you bring Keurig coffee cups with you.

Information on tuxedo rentals, scooter, and wheelchair rentals are included in their newsletter #2 which will be on the Branch and Region websites.

New Business

Change of Meeting Space/Time: **This item was covered just after convening the meeting, before the committee reports, because the VFW Representative had to leave early for another meeting.**

- VFW Post 1474 has been granted the meals contracts at the Cannon Street Homeless Shelter and the weekend meals at the Trent Shelter. This makes the use of the "Bingo Hall" non-existent.
- All meetings being held at the "Bingo Hall" will be moved to the "Club" building. This includes the VFW Post's Auxiliary meetings that are held just after the FRA Branch 38 meeting on the 3rd weekend of the month.
- The VFW Post's Auxiliary wants to continue meeting on the 3rd weekend, and the only time available is the time that the FRA Branch meets. Their Auxiliary has asked that the FRA Branch move to another weekend to accommodate this request. Propose moving to 2nd weekend.
- The change will be effective for the FRA in April 2023. We will be having the March meeting at a restaurant so it won't be affected. It will also give us time to send out the change in the Quarterly Bulletin due out the end of March 2023.

A discussion of the options for the FRA led to a motion for the FRA to meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the same time frame, 10:00 AM. It was seconded and a vote was held and the motion passed. Starting with the April 2023 Branch 038 meeting, all Branch meetings for the rest of the year and future years will be on the 2nd Saturday of the month and the luncheon at the end of each quarter (March, June, September, and December) will be on the 2nd Saturday of the month. The Branch Meeting Calendar and Website will be updated accordingly. See the end of these minutes to see the changed dates.

Another motion was made to keep the business at the Luncheon Meetings to a minimum so that the Branch Shipmates can enjoy their lunch without it getting cold. The Branch Secretary will adjust the agenda for these meetings.

Shipmates Lost – Fair Winds and Following Seas to the following:

- Branch 38 Shipmate Gerald Fitzgerald who joined the Supreme Commanders team on 9/20/2022. His name will be added to the next Two Bell Ceremony to be held at the April 2023 meeting.

Navy Chief's Representative Issues – Branch 38 Shipmate James Grisham, the Navy Chief's Rep, has a couple of issues to bring up to FRA's Branch 38's for a vote. We had discussed these issues in the January Branch Meeting, but a vote on the issue was delayed until today's meeting.

- It was proposed that Branch 38 supply the local 2023 "Chief Selectees" their anchors for their uniforms. The cost is approximately \$18 each and we usually only see two or three per year locally. *A vote was held to supply them for this year and reassess for continuing years. Shipmate Grisham will be the lead on this issue, i.e. finding out how many will be needed, purchasing them, and then get reimbursed.*
- The Khaki Ball will be held April 1, 2023, at VFW Post 1435, 192 S. David St, Spokane Valley, WA
Shipmate Grisham had no other information on this at this time. He will send Branch Secretary Burke the information as soon as he gets it and she will include it in the next quarterly Bulletin due out in March.
- Letter to NOSC Spokane regarding the use of Branch 38 EIN for Navy Ball if the Branch is not included in the planning/activities?
We have been unable to find out who the Navy Ball Chair is at the Spokane NOSC, so the letter has not been sent.

Upcoming Activities

- April 8th - Nominations/Election of 2023-2024 Officers/BOD
Terms Expiring: **President - Vice President - Sec/Treas - 1 BOD - Possible Cmte Chairs**
- May 13th - Installation of Officers
- May 20th - Armed Forces Day on the 20th & Lilac Parade
- July 4th
- August 19th - NWR Convention in Nampa, ID.
- September 8-17th - Spokane County Fair (our Monthly Meeting is on the 9th)
- September 23-30th - FRA 2023 National Convention in Sparks, NV

Good of the Order

Advantage Health Program Questions – An alternative to Medicare

This program is offered through the AARP organization and could be mor advantageous to use than strictly using Medicare since it includes Vision and Dental.

Shipmate Peck, who was attending via Zoom, asked if any new of an organization that would take old military uniforms vs just throwing them away. He also had several widows of deceased navy reservists asking him about how to get help in filing for their benefits. Shipmate Burke will send an email to HQ regarding the latter issue.

Meeting was adjourned at after the closing prayer given by Chaplain Dennis McCully.

Margret “Peg” Burke, Branch Secretary

Robert Bean, Branch President

2022-2023 Branch Officers

President	Robert Bean
Vice President	Michelle Davis
Sec/Treasurer:	Peg Burke
	(2021-2023)
Chaplain	Dennis McCully
Master-at-Arms	James Robertson

Board of Directors

Plus Branch Officers:
Anna Martin (2018-2023)
Rick Baldwin (2020-2025)
Harold Young (2021-2026)

2022–2023 Branch Committee Chairs

Americanism	Anna Martin
HW&R	Michelle Davis
Public Relations	Peg Burke
Veterans Services	Dave Lord
Youth Activities	James Grisham

Revised Calendar Year 2023 Meeting Locations

All meetings, beginning in April 2023, are on the Second Saturday of the month.

3rd Quarter FY 2022 VFW Post 1474 and Luncheon Meetings

March 18, 2023 Luncheon Meeting at NOON at *The Cracker Barrell – EAST*
1875 W. Lee Ct, Coeur d’Alene, ID (I-90 East - Exit 11)

Begin 2nd Saturday of Month Schedule

4th Quarter FY 2022 VFW Post 1474 and Luncheon Meetings (Changes)

April 8th 2023 Qtrly Meeting at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post 1474, 2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA
May 13th 2023 Monthly Mtg at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post_1474, 2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA
June 10th 2023 Luncheon Meeting at NOON at *The Onion – NORTH* 7552 N. Division St, Spokane, WA

1st Quarter FY 2023 VFW Post 1474 and Luncheon Meetings (Changes)

July 8th 2023 Qtrly Meeting at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post 1474, 2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA
August 12th 2023 Monthly Mtg at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post_1474, 2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA
September 9th 2023 Luncheon Meeting at NOON at *El Charrito – SOUTH*, 4303 S. Regal, Spokane, WA

2nd Quarter FY 2023 VFW Post 1474 and Luncheon Meetings (Changes)

October 14th 2023 Qtrly Meeting at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post 1474, 2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA
November 11th 2023 Monthly Mtg at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post_1474, 2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA
December 9th 2023 Luncheon Meeting at NOON at the *Longhorn BBQ – WEST / XMAS Party*
7611 W. Hwy 2, Spokane, WA