



Fleet Reserve Association Inland Empire Branch 38, Inc. Spokane, Washington

www.frabran38.org



November 11, 2023 - MEETING MINUTES

Introduction of non-member guests and visiting shipmates. Shipmates Peck and Thompson joined us via Zoom.

The Blessing of God was given by Chaplain Dennis McCully.

The Meeting was declared convened at 10:04 a.m. by Branch President Dave Lord.

Read Minutes of October 2023 Branch 38 meetings which were approved as read.

Standing Committee Reports

Americanism-Patriotism – Chair, **Rick Baldwin** – Shipmate Manly reported that the VFW had some essays that had missed their deadline and asked if the FRA would accept them. The members present voted yes to that request.

Hospitals, Welfare & Rehabilitation – Chair, **Michelle Davis** took numbers for her report. Shipmate Grisham reported that he and 3 others of the Branch attended the services of Shipmate Bruce Bishop, a former Navy LT and hockey fan of the Spokane Chiefs.

Membership & Retention – Chair, **Michelle Davis** Branch 38 membership are at 61. Shipmate Robert Bean stated he will be on the National Membership & Retention Committee Zoom meet in December. He has managed to move his Dr appointments at the VA to another date. He also mentioned the Veterans Day celebrations he has attended in the Tri-Cities, WA. He and his father, Shipmate Ralph Bean, have attended them for the past few years and the students in the Tri-Cities, really celebrate their veterans in their area.

Below is a list of gifts each veteran received in their bags the students gave each veteran:

Lifesavers	You are a Life Saver!
Rubber Band	Because You ARE so Flexible!
Tootsie Roll	You Played An Important ROLL!
Laffy Taffy	You Maintained Your Sense of Humor!
Smarties	You had the Answers when You Needed Them!
Band-Aid	When Things Got Rough, You Kept It Together!
Starbursts	We want to say “Thank You” in a Burst of Flavor to ALL Our Veteran Hero!
Peppermint Patty	For all the Times You were able to Keep Your Ckool!
Penny	You are PRICELESS TO Our Country!
Toy Soldier	BECAUSE YOU ARE OUR HERO!

Public Relations – Chair, **Peg Burke** did not have much to mention at the Branch level. She did distribute the 2023 Revised NW Region C&BL and the 2023 Regional convention minutes to all regional officers and committee members as part of her duties at the NW Regional Secretary. We are still waiting for the revised edition of the FRA C&BL to be published.

Veterans Service – Chair, **Dave Lord** stated he has two more clients. He was asked why can't the initial claim go directly from the VA Hospital when they are diagnosed at the hospital. He said it is not set up that way at this time.

Youth Activities – Chair, Jr Past President, **Robert Bean** was asked why cant we do a presentation to the Sea Cadets on what our Branch does.

Communications received since the September 2023 meeting were discussed.

Treasurer’s Report – 10/31/2023 was given and approved.

Unfinished or Deferred Business

Milestone Awards for October – November - December 2023

None in October or November.

James Grisham 5 years December 2023

2024 NW Regional Convention The 2024 Northwest Regional Convention will be held on September 6-7, 2024, at the Clover Island Inn located in Kennewick, Washington. It is being held later than normal since the 2024 National Convention won’t be held until November to coincide with the FRA 100-year Celebration.

Inland Empire Branch 38, Spokane, WA will be coordinating with all the Northwest Branches to contribute their ideas into this convention. Our idea is to make this a “true” northwest regional convention by having each Branch in the Northwest Region take responsibility for one of the activities that happen during a convention.

The following are plusses for the area:

There is a Coast Guard detachment down there.

Shipmate George Peck has agreed to act as Convention Chair.

Lewis & Clark Branch 63’s President has said he would help.

Branch 50 said to let them know how they can help.

Branch 18 has offered to help run the Hospitality Room (they still have “spirits” they can bring to help defray the costs.)

Speaker suggestions were as follows:

- Possible presentation by Rudy Lopez, WDVA Vets Cemetery at Medical Lake, WA on the process for burials at their location since it is the only veterans cemetery East of the Cascades in Washington State.
- Chuck Whitman from FRA Branch 63, Lewiston, ID, since he is on Washington State Governor Inslee’s Committee on Veterans Affairs. Shipmate Burke stated he has already been asked and has agreed to be one of our speakers. He is a County Commissioner in Asotin County, WA, and is also involved in that area’s veterans’ services outreach.
- U.S. Representative Don Newhouse who represents the area where the convention will be held in Kennewick, WA.
- There is also the former Secretary of Defense, U.S. Marine General Mattis who lives in the Richland, WA area (part of the Tri-Cities) after he retired.

New Business

Branch 38 Display Table - Shipmate Grisham also reported that on Veterans Day, November 11, 2023, the Spokane Chiefs hockey team will be playing at 6:00 pm. He has arranged for Branch 38 to have a display table in the NE corner of the arena building and we need to be set up by 4:45 p.m. Shipmate Baldwin is coordinating the table information and will need help setting everything up and manning the table.

Distribution of C&BL Revision & 2023 NWR Conv Minutes – was covered under the report from the Public Relations Chair for Branch 38.

2024 NWR Convention Newsletter #1 – Draft newsletter ready for distribution. Shipmate Burke, who is the Convention Secretary will make sure it goes out next week.

Two Bell Ceremony – Fair Winds and Following Seas to Shipmate Dale Stevenston of Branch 38, NED Chris Slawinski, and Branch 170 Secretary Rick Alles.

Good of the Order

There is a veterans website that various groups working together as local representatives for veterans are using to keep veterans up-to-date on what's going on. The name of the website was not mentioned, so we need to get that and make sure that it is published in our newsletters for our members to utilize.

50/50 Drawing of \$26 was won by Shipmate Michelle Davis, who donated \$10 of her winnings back to the Branch.

It was suggested that we invite the Chief Selectees from the NOSC to the Christmas Party in December. Shipmate Grisham was asked to take on that task.

The Spokane NOSC no longer has a navy "Honor Guard" for the Spokane Area. Do we need to step up and provide one for this area? Fairchild AFB has one that seems to do a lot of military ceremonies at the local Veterans Cemetery.

Closing Prayer – **Chaplain**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Margret "Peg" Burke, Branch Secretary

David L. Lord, Branch President

2023-2024 Branch Officers

President Dave Lord
Vice President Michelle Davis
Sec/Treasurer: Peg Burke

Chaplain Dennis McCully
Master-at-Arms James Robertson

Board of Directors

Plus Branch Officers:
Rick Baldwin (2020-2025)
Harold Young (2021-2026)
James Grisham (2023-2028)

2023–2024 Branch Cmte Chairs

Americanism Rick Baldwin
HW&R Michelle Davis
Public Relations Peg Burke
Veterans Services Dave Lord
Youth Activities **Vacant**

Revised Calendar Year 2023 Meeting Locations

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

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

Dates for Calendar Year 2024

*All meetings are on the **SECOND Saturday** of the month.*

Third Quarter FY 2023 VFW Post 1474 and Luncheon Meetings

January 13, 2024 Qtrly Meeting at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post 1474
2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA

February 10, 2024 Monthly Mtg at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post_1474
2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA

March 9, 2024 Luncheon Meeting at NOON at the
Illinois Bar & Grill, 1403 E. Illinois, Spokane, WA - **North**

Fourth Quarter FY 2023 VFW Post 1474 and Luncheon Meetings

April 13, 2024 Qtrly Meeting at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post 1474
2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA

May 11, 2024 Monthly Meeting at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post 1474
2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA

June 8, 2024 Luncheon Meeting at NOON at the
Shari's Restaurant, 320 N. Sullivan, Spokane Valley, WA – **East**

First Quarter FY 2024 VFW Post 1474 and Luncheon Meetings

July 13, 2024 Qtrly Meeting at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post 1474
2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA

August 10, 2024 Monthly Meeting at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post 1474
2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA

September 14, 2024 Luncheon Meeting at NOON at the
McKenzie River Pizza, 2910 E, 57th, Spokane, WA - **South**

Second Quarter FY 2024 VFW Post 1474 and Luncheon Meetings

October 12, 2024 Qtrly Meeting at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post 1474
2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, WA

November 9, 2024 Monthly Meeting at 10:00 AM at the VFW Post 1474
2902 E. Diamond Ave, Spokane, W

December 14, 2024 XMAS LUNCH at the **Ranch Chico Mexican Restaurant**,
2023 W. Northwest Blvd, Spokane, WA – **West**