



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

www.frabran38.org



FEBRUARY 10, 2024 - MEETING MINUTES

Introduction of non-member guests and visiting shipmates. RPNW Rex Faubion, MAL Rick Hanson were present, and Shipmates Peck and Thompson joined us via Zoom.

The Blessing of God was given by Chaplain Dennis McCully.

The Meeting was declared convened at 10:15 a.m. by Branch President Dave Lord.

Read Minutes of November & December 2023 and January of 2024 Branch 38 meetings. All were approved as read.

Standing Committee Reports:

Americanism-Patriotism – Chair, **Rick Baldwin**

- *Judging the AP Essays received by Branch 38 has been completed and the results are:*

Hospitals, Welfare & Rehabilitation – Chair, **Michelle Davis**

Membership & Retention – Chair, **Michelle Davis**

- *Branch Membership numbers remain at 61.*
- *Membership renewals for Klein, Peg Burke, and Brenberger, have been received.*
- *New life Membership for Shipmate Thompson*
- *The new Membership Application with the new Life Member numbers is now posted on the FRA Website.*

Public Relations – Chair, **Peg Burke**

- *First Quarter 2024 Branch Bulletin distributed.*
- *Branch 38 shipmates hosted a table at the January 27, 2024, Military Appreciation Night at the Spokane Chief's Hockey Game.*

Veterans Service – Chair, **Dave Lord**

- *I continue to learn, read, and update myself on National Legislation, Veterans Benefits Administration, and the VA Hospital. I continue to assist with disability service claims. I will start my third year of training on January 6, 2024.*
- *The claims process is very slow and painful for all of us, therefore I constantly am in contact with the VA to get the benefits you deserve,*
- *Per the February issue of the FRA Today, the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) is now known as the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement. (see Page 25 under Membership Matters)*

Youth Activities – Chair, **Robert Bean**

- *2024 Education Foundation Applications are now available on the FRA Website. The deadline for submission is April 15, 2024.*
- *Spokane Indians Home Games July 4-6 and 9-14, 2024.*
- *Spokane Indians Armed Forces Appreciation Night is May 12, 2024, at 6:35 pm*

Communications received since the December 2023 meeting were discussed.

Treasurer's Reports – 12/31/2023 and 1/31/2024

- *Order for continuous membership awards were billed higher than the order form listed. Issue was discussed at the January 31st NBOD zoom meeting. Prices have increased, but the order form on the FRA Website was not updated (it is now). NED was contacted by the Branch Secretary regarding the difference (\$49.50). He stated that she should indicate on the invoice that the difference was forgiven by the NED/Finance Officer and pay the order form price of \$466.50. The Branch members present agreed with the NED.*
- *Zoom Subscription renewal happened on January 16, 2024. The NW Region Budget Committee has ok'd paying their half. Is Branch 38 going to pay the other half? The invoice amount is for \$174.13 – half is \$87. The Branch Secretary will cover the small change.*
 - Branch members did not approve their half payment of the Zoom subscription, but RPNW Faubion paid it for use in his visitation schedules.

Unfinished or Deferred Business

Milestone Awards for October – November - December 2023

James Grisham 5 years December 2023

Branch President and RPNW Faubion presented Shipmate Grisham his pin for 20 years since the last pin he had received was his 15-year pin. This Branch feels that a few months' break should not penalize a shipmate for the rest of his membership.

Christmas Party Donation Jars Results for the Following:

Toys for Tots Drive – Received \$150 - Donations hand delivered to the South Hill Target Area joint donation collection point the day of the Branch 38 Christmas Party..

Vets Cemetery Wreaths – Received \$150 - Donations hand delivered to the business office of the Washington State Veterans Cemetery office on December 14, 2023.

New Business

Milestone Awards for January – February - March 2024

None in January or March

Ray Kuhn 20 Years February 2024

2024 NW Region MID-YEAR Convention – RPNW Rex Faubion stated that there will be a Mid-Year Convention in the NW Region this year on **May 4, 2024, via ZOOM**. He is planning on holding a virtual event after the NBOD mid-year meeting to check in with all the regional branches on the progress in getting their reports submitted. More information to come regarding this meeting.

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.

Room Rates are \$114 per night plus 10.7% tax and \$3 Tourist Fee. These rates are good for September 4 to September 8, 2024. Call **509-586-0541** and mention **Fleet Reserve Association** to get the above rate. **DO NOT book online** or you will not get the convention rate. Reservations made after August 26, 2024, at this rate will be on space availability.

So far, the only shipmates registered at the hotel for this convention are from Branch 38.

The 2024 (96th FRA/91st LAFRA) Convention

The Centennial Committee applied for and was granted by the 2022 National Convention delegates permission to host the 96th FRA/91st LAFRA Convention in conjunction with the FRA Centennial Celebration. The convention itself will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, Maryland, on **November 10-16, 2024**. **The Centennial will be on November 11, 2024, and the Convention itself will be held November 12-25, 2024**. Information is now available on the FRA Website. Newsletters for this convention, etc. will be coming out in the next few weeks.

It is off US-50. The hotel offers a free shuttle within five miles, including to the Westfield Annapolis Mall, restaurants around Annapolis Town Centre, and the US Naval Academy. Enjoy free parking, their Olympic-sized pool, and dining at their on-site restaurant, Ports of Call. They welcome you with a fresh DoubleTree Chocolate Chip Cookie.

In addition to the above pool, on-site restaurant and free parking, other amenities are:

Free WiFi	Room Service	Fitness Center	Digital Key
EV Charging	Non-smoking rooms	Connecting rooms	Pet Friendly rooms.

Nominations for National Offices:

NP Nominations	NVP Maria Behm	NCR Branch 32
NVP Nominations	Rick Fetro	WCR Branch 101
	Pete Lazzaretti	NWR Branch 18

Resolutions are due to HQ by July 15, 2024.

RPNW Fabion stated that the Centennial Convention Committee would like to know what type of celebration we are planning at the Branch level

Good of the Order

Burial Benefits – Possible future presentation by Rudy Lopez, WDVA Vets Cemetery. It was suggested that we try to get to join us for our June luncheon meeting.

FRA's "My Personal Affairs booklet. Shipmate Burke brought the booklet she made from the PDF document for "show and tell". The document is not interactive, but it makes it easier to read than the premade booklet you can order from FRA HQ.

Upcoming Events:

Spokane Indians Armed Forces Appreciation Night is May 12, 2024, at 6:35 pm.
Lilac Armed Forces Day Parade, May 18, 2024
Newport Grand Rodeo and Parade, June 20-22, 2024, in Newport, WA
Hillyard Festival in Spokane, WA August 4-6, 2024
Southeast Spokane County Fair, Rockford, WA on September 20-22, 2024
Spokane Indians Home Games July 4-6 and 9-14, 2024.

It was suggested that we add former Branch 38 member Mortimer Sullivan and World War II veteran Leonard Paulsen to our Two Bell Ceremony for April. Their obituaries were published in the local Spokesman-Review newspaper recently.

RPNW Rex Faubion Briefing on the NWR and National NBOD Actions

NWR Update:

- Bremerton Branch 29 and Silverdale Branch 310 have merged.
- Anchorage Branch 342 is still conversing on voluntarily surrendering their Charter.
- Whidbey Island Branch 97 is still in their reconstruction mode after the fire they had during the first year of COVID. They should be back to full operation in the Spring of 2024.
- There were 53 essays judged at the Branch level. Twenty (20) essays were received for judging at the Region level. The next week will be the judging of these 20 essays and the first place winners will be forwarded to national for the final judging.
- Membership is struggling. NW lost 15 members in the month of January that were terminated for Non-payment of dues.
- A Zoom meeting is scheduled for February 12 to discuss the future of the NW LAFRA.
- We need to get everyone we can to attend the NW Region Convention in Kennewick, WA during the September 6-8, 2024 timeframe. We also need to celebrate the Centennial at the convention.

National Update:

- Reiterated that any resolutions for the National Convention need to be to the C&BL Committee by July 15, 2024.
- The papers for the sale of the National HQ building for \$3,970,000 have been signed. HQ is now on a lease agreement which runs until 31 August, 2024. Rent escrow of \$50,528.39 has been paid. We are paying about \$5420 monthly.
- Determination has to be made on what to do with archives, library, and artifacts.
- A lease agreement has been signed for new office space at 1600 Duke Street in Alexandria, VA.
- FRA Centennial Celebration is November 10-16, 2024 in Annapolis, MD.
- In conjunction with the Centennial, FRA is the host for the Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. This also involves sponsoring a reception for 200-300 people at Patton Hall on Ft. Meyer.
- The membership application has been updated and available on the FRA website.
- C&BL from last year’s convention has been revised/corrected to reflect changes to membership.

As you can see, there has been a lot going on this year.

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

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

- 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**