



**Fleet Reserve Association
Inland Empire Branch 38, Inc.
Spokane, Washington**
www.frabranch38.org

MAY 13, 2017 QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

<u>2016-2017 Branch Officers</u>		<u>2015–2020 Board of Directors</u>		<u>2016–20167Branch Committee Chairmen</u>	
President	Robert Bean	<i>Plus Branch Officers:</i>		Americanism	James Robertson
Vice President	Michelle Davis		James Robertson	HW&R	Michelle Davis
Sec/Treasurer:	Peg Burke		Anna Martin	Public Relations	Ralph Bean
			Bruce Vails	Youth Activities	James Grisham
Chaplain	Ralph Bean				
Master-at-Arms	James Robertson				

- The May 13, 2017 Quarterly Meeting was held at VFW Post 51, 300 W. Mission, Spokane, WA and was called to order and presided over by Branch President Robert Bean. There were nine members and one visitor present.
- Introductions: Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Committee representative Tom Guier was introduced.
- The Minutes of April 22, 2017, Monthly/Luncheon Meeting Minutes reading were read and approved.
- Treasurer’s Report –May 2017 was distributed to those present.
- Communications received during April and May were be read.

OLD BUSINESS

Milestone Awards for April—May—June 2017

Terry Gaffney	5 years	May 2017	Harold Young	15 years	April 2017
Jack Terry	20 years	May 2017	Roi Sigler	10 years	June 2017
Dave Van Selus	25 years	May 2017	Richard Peterschick	45 years	June 2017

Shipmate Harold Young was presented his 15 year award at the May Meeting. Shipmate Hutchinson was presented his 45 year award at the meeting also.

Branch Secretary / Regional President Duties Conflicts – The Branch Secretary, Margret “Peg” Burke , who is also the current Northwest Regional President, has one more conflict with the branch meeting schedule. It is September 23, 2017 when she will be in Hunt Valley, MD at the 2017 National Convention. She will have the agenda and other documentations ready for the meeting so someone can take the minutes.

Membership – As of the end of April 2017, Branch 38’s Report has 91. We are still in Group IV, but are just barely keeping above the limit of 88 members to stay in that group. If we drop to Group V we will be in the lowest group of FRA membership. Let’s dust off our recruiting skills and beat the bushes and shopping malls for more members.

Members Lost to the Supreme Commander – Shipmate Thomas Poindexter’s wife called the Branch Secretary to let her know that he had passed away February 2, 2015. Shipmate Verne Smith’s son called to let us know that his father had passed away on March 28, 2017 and that they planning a memorial service for him on June 17, 2017 at the Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake. We will call the Veterans Cemetery for more information on his service before the June meeting. We were notified of Shipmate Gordon Zehm’s passing when his quarterly bulleting came back to the Secretary marked “Deceased”. The Branch Secretary googled his name and found his obituary. Shipmate Zehm’s notification was the one that dropped us to 91.

Voting Strength for Branch 38 – is 5 votes. Convention Delegates, take note of this because this may come in handy when voting for Northwest Regional and National Officers.

2017 Khaki Ball – was held on April 1, 2017 at the River’s Edge Buffet Restaurant in the Northern Quest Casino & Hotel at 100 N. Hayford Rd, Airway Heights, WA at 1800 hours to 2100 hours. Shipmate Grisham has the scoop on how it went. From what he told the Branch Secretary at Shipmate Martin’s retirement party the Khaki Ball was well attended this year.

Cater Branch Christmas Party – It was suggested that we look into catering the food at the Christmas Party from the VFW Post 51 Auxiliary. They have different menus we could choose from.

- *VFW Post 51 closed its kitchen. We will have to figure out something for our Christmas Party.*

Publications - Please note that the Branch Secretary has downloaded and printed out the “FRA OnWatch” publication and the Navy Personnel Command’s “Shift Colors”. If you want a copy of the Shift Colors publication, let the Branch Secretary know and she can email it to you. The FRA OnWatch publication can be found on the FRA website under the News & Publications tab.

NEW BUSINESS

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) Committee – this is a new venture that FRA is moving quickly to staff. Our visitor, Tom Guier (a member of Branch 97), is the local committee member we will be working with. Shipmate Lord has been named as an “ambassador” from our Branch to assist in this endeavor. This is a new “committee” that FRA authorized a couple of years ago during the National Convention and it is now being established “region by region”.

FRA Student Veteran Program – this is an outreach program coordinated by Robert Washington out of FRA Headquarters. The Branch Secretary has a brochure and information on this student program.

2016-2017 Americanism Essay Contest – We have received the Northwest Regional checks and certificates for our local contest winners. We waited to see if any of them won at the National level before we present those awards. Branch 55 of Portland, OR and Branch 245 of Anchorage, AK are the only Northwest Regional Branches that had winners at the national level. Therefore, appointments have been set up in the next two weeks to present the Regional awards to our local winners.

C&BL Resolution from Spokane Branch 038 – The Branch is trying to submit a resolution to change the way they figure the continuous service awards for those that let their membership lapse for a short time. It needs to be brought up and debated by the Branch and entered on the Resolution. All resolutions are due to HQ by May 25, 2017. It was submitted and returned for a few additional items needed to get it through the “committee” to the floor of the upcoming National Convention.

The revised C&BL Resolution from the Branch was read, discussed and unanimously adopted for submission. The Secretary will submit the revised version to the C&BL Committee for the National Convention delegates to vote on.

2017-2018 Americanism Essay Contest – the information for next year’s contest has arrived. The theme for 2017-2018 is “*What Patriotism Means to Me*”.

Inland Empire Branch 38 Standing Rules – This is our addition to the NWR and FRA C&BL to operate our Branch. It was last updated in 2004 and needs to be updated since our membership has been depleted so much. We need to take a look at changing some of our “standing rules”.

The Branch Standing Rules will be reviewed prior to the Northwest Region’s Convention in August. All Branch Board members will meet in July to go over them prior to the Branch’s August Quarterly Meeting.

2018 Branch Meeting Schedule – after a couple of years trying to schedule around local city activities, officer vacation plans, etc., a proposal has been made to go back to setting a regular Saturday (the third Saturday) of each month as the meeting day, regardless of what is going on. The Secretary notes there is a potential problem, the date in May is the same as the Armed Forces Day Parade.

Even though the May 2018 meeting will be on Armed Forces Day Parade, i.e. Lilac Parade, it was decided to keep it on the schedule, as long as it meets the VFW’s schedule, for the third weekend since we meet at 10:00 am for the Quarterly Meetings.

Branch Election and Installation of Officers – *Election of officers must be done at this meeting.* The President and Vice President’s terms are expiring and need to be filled. The Secretary has one more year. Installation could take place on either June 10, 2017 or upon election to the office at the May meeting.

Branch Elections were held. It was moved and seconded that the current officers be re-elected for the 2017-2018 year. The vote was unanimous. Installation will be June 10, 2017 at the Skyway Café or the Honor Point Museum if we can arrange it.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Patriot Rallies – Shipmate Messing handed out information that the award winning film “No Greater Love” to rally communities to reach out and help veterans through an innovative “Test-to-Give & Connect” promotion at the end of the film that will allow *any* veteran organizations to use the film as a fundraiser. The Patriot Rallies will help raise awareness for the nationwide campaign and help veteran organizations and communities to sign up. His group is looking to Mid-June for a big rally in Spokane. The film was made by an active duty Chaplain.

The film, “No Greater Love” shows the war through the soldiers’ eyes as they fought their way through a hellish tour in one of the most dangerous places in Afghanistan and delves into the struggles many veterans face as they come home. It’s a story of hope.

The First Theatrical Documentary by an Active Duty Soldier.

Memorial Day Ceremony at Medical Lake’s Veterans Cemetary – Shipmate Robertson has stated that the local SeaBee organization is looking for more riders to fill the bus they have arranged for to take them to the cemetery on May 29, 2017 for the Memorial Day Ceremony there. The prelude is at 1030 and the ceremony is at 11:00 am to about 12:30 pm. The bus will leave from the Northern Quest Casino.

Shipmate Robertson says that the SeaBee Organization has arranged for a bus to leave the Northern Quest area for the Medical Lake Veteran’s Cemetery at 10:00 am. They were asking for more “bodies” to fill the bus. If you wish to participate, please contact him to sign up before the end of the meeting.

MEETING PLACES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017

4th Quarter FY 2016 Luncheons and Quarterly Meetings

- ❖ **May 13, 2017** - Quarterly Meeting at **1000 AM** at the VFW Post 51, 300 W. Mission, Spokane, WA
- ❖ **June 10, 2017** – Skyway Café (next to Felts Field) at **Noon**, 6105 E. Rutter Ave, Spokane Valley, WA (East)

1st Quarter FY 2017 Luncheons and Quarterly Meetings

- **July 8, 2017** – The Onion at **Noon**, 7552 N. Division, Spokane, WA (North)
- **August 19, 2017** - Quarterly Meeting at **1000 AM** at the VFW Post 51, 300 W. Mission, Spokane, WA
- **September 23, 2017** - Rancho Chico Mexican Restaurant at **Noon**, 2023 W. Northwest Blvd, Spokane, WA (West)

2nd Quarter FY 2017 Luncheons and Quarterly Meetings

- **October 14, 2017** - MacKenzie River Pizza at **Noon**, 2910 E. 57th Ave, Spokane, WA (South)
- **November 11, 2017** - Quarterly Meeting at **1000 AM** at the VFW Post 51, 300 W. Mission, Spokane, WA
- **December 2, 2017** - Quarterly Meeting at **1100 AM** at the VFW Post 51, 300 W. Mission, Spokane, WA
- *Note the date change for August’s Quarterly meeting (changed to accommodate an activity at the VFW on the original date).*

Meeting Adjourned.

Margret “Peg” Burke, Branch Secretary

Robert Bean Sr, Branch President