



FRA - NORTHWEST REGIONAL

SCUTTLEBUTT - ISSUE #3 – 2020-2021

**SERVING WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO, MONTANA, ALASKA,
HAWAII, GUAM, JAPAN, AND THE PHILIPPINES**

Regional Officers 2020-2021

President:

RPNW Danny Hunt
Gem State Branch #382
2441. Clydesdale Ave.
Meridian, ID 83646-4175
(H) 208-629-0863
danhnt1197@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

PRPNW Margret "Peg" Burke
Inland Empire Branch #038
14707 N. Farragut Ln
Mead, WA 99021-9286
(C) 509-385-7275
FRA.NWRRegion@gmail.com

Vice President

RVPNW Michelle Davis
Inland Empire Branch #038
4205 S. Helena St.
Spokane, WA 99203-4308
(H) 509-448-3163
(C) 509-389-3956
medavis@q.com

Jr Past President

JrPRPNW William H. Hall
Gem State Branch #382
2472 N. Tangent Ave.
Meridian, ID 83646-7588
(C) 208-695-1664
eaglesnest1048@gmail.com

Warm greetings to all the FRA Shipmates in the Northwest Region. I hope that this newsletter finds everyone well and in good cheer. With the new season (Spring) we can hopefully look forward to a sunny future.

With the general availability of the COVID vaccine, I hope all of you are getting vaccinated. I know it is a matter of choice and you are left to make that decision on your own, but I would ask that before you arbitrarily pass on the vaccination, please have a heart-to-heart talk with your loved ones and your primary care physician and be sure you have all the facts. The ability to make that choice is one of the reasons that we served - so that people do have a choice in how they live their lives. Be sure you make the right choice for you and your loved ones.

Annual convention for the Northwest Region and auxiliary. Yes, we are going to have one this year. It is to be a single day affair on Saturday, August 28th and will be held at the LaQuinta Hotel, Tacoma, Washington. The host is Mt. Rainier Branch 104. The flyer for the convention is posted on the NW Region web page. Those shipmates in the Puget Sound area will not have to get a hotel room, unless they want to arrive on Friday evening. We will start at 0830 hours on Saturday, have a lunch break (you buy), and then have an afternoon session with officer installations. If all goes well, we should have closing ceremonies by 1700. I hope that this arrangement will be conducive for a good turn-out. We are going to have a social get together on Friday evening at the hotel for a little meet and greet and renew old acquaintances.

I am asking that each Branch in the NW Region provide an item that can be auctioned during the luncheon, with the proceeds to help with the cost associated with hosting the convention. These items can be brought with you on the date of the convention or sent to Branch 104 ahead of time. I hope to see you all there. This convention should be easy on everyone's pocketbook.

The 93rd FRA/88th LAFRA National Convention will be held this year on October 2-9 at the Mirabeau Park Hotel and Convention Center, Spokane Valley, Washington. The flyer for the convention is on the FRA national web site at www.fra.org. Check it out. I hope that you will all consider coming and showing support for the Association from the NW Region. Branch 38 from Spokane is doing the majority of the heavy lifting on

getting this up and running. We wish to thank them for their effort along with the Officers of the NW Region and the National Convention Committee.

I want to encourage you to have your monthly meetings in a face-to-face situation if possible or at least virtually with something like Zoom. Just keep in touch with your Branch members. I know that a majority of Branches use a calling tree to keep in contact. If not, you should set one up because some of our Shipmates only have us for outside contact. If the Branch officers split up the roster it doesn't take a lot of time to contact everyone.

A thought to ponder: "The man that never stubs his toe is probably standing still".

It is that time of year for new elections at the Branch level. Be sure to get your Branch Officer reports into the Region Secretary as soon as possible. You have to send in a report even if there is no change from last year.

NOTE: Regarding the fliers on Agent Orange and Blue Water Navy, they are for reference only. For additional questions contact your local VA Office. The phone number on the flier is for Idaho residences only.

Shipmates, keep looking for that Shipmate that is out there looking for a place to light and call home and invite them to become a member of the Fleet Reserve Association and your branch.

"Don't worry about getting older, you're still going to do dumb stuff, only slower".

Be well, Be Safe, Be HAPPY.

In Loyalty, Protection, and Service.

Danny Hunt

Regional President Northwest

From the Desk of NW Region Secretary/Treasurer

Washington State has now moved into Phase 3 of reopening after the COVID-19 Pandemic. This allows us to go ahead with our plans for the Northwest Region and the National Conventions that were postponed in 2020.

The Northwest Region Convention is being held on August 28, 2021 at the LaQuinta Hotel at 1425 East 27th St, Tacoma, WA. More information can be found on the regional website. This is a one-day business meeting on a Saturday. Each branch in the Northwest Region needs to submit a Regional Delegate Form so their branch can be represented at the convention by either a Shipmate from the Branch or a Proxy.

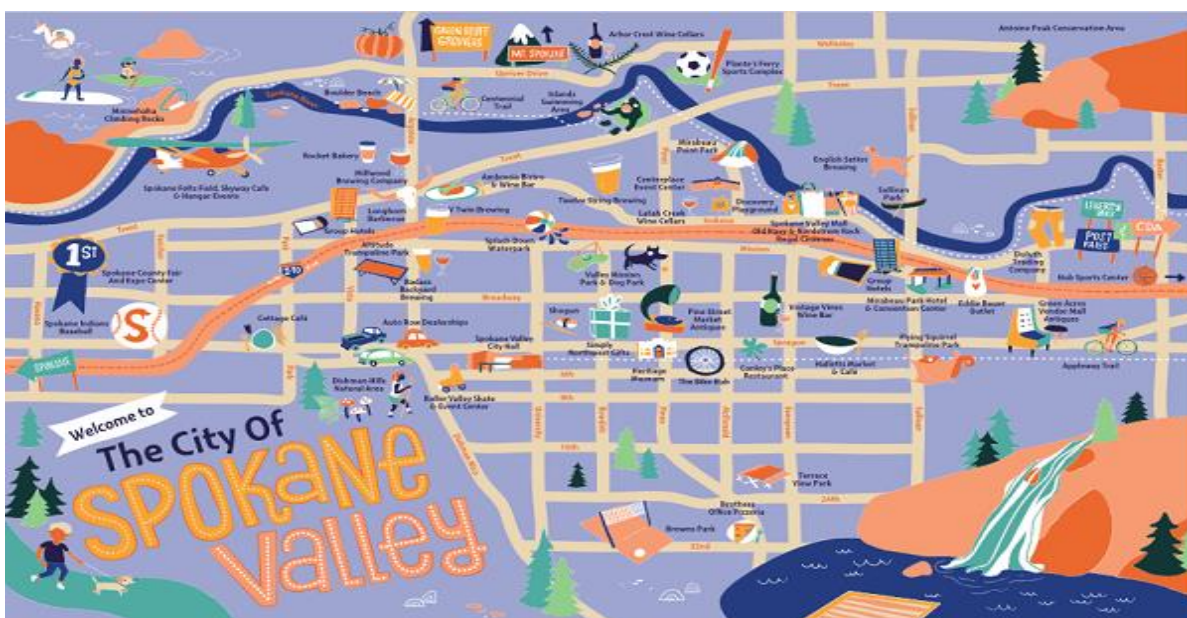
The "***Delegate Credentials Form for Regional Conventions***" can be found on the FRA Website under Membership/Member Resources/Branch Resources. The form works best if you open it in Adobe Acrobat. Even though you may have a delegate coming to the convention, please include a "Proxy" as a precaution to some unforeseen reason the delegate cannot make the convention. The Regional Delegate form is to be sent to the following **not later than August 7, 2021.**

Original	Credentials Chair – PNP John Johnson
Copies	Delegate & Proxy
	Regional Sec/Treas – Peg Burke
	RPNW Danny Hunt
	Branch Files
	RVPNW Michelle Davix

The 93rd FRA/88th LAFRA National Convention is being held on October 2-9, 2021 at the **Mirabeau Park Hotel and Convention Center**, 1100 N. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley, Washington. More information can be found on the regional website. Each branch in the Northwest Region needs to submit a Regional Delegate Form so their branch can be represented at the National Convention by either a Shipmate from the Branch or a Proxy.

The Branch Secretaries can find ***“Delegate Credential Form”*** by logging in to the FRA Website under Membership/Officer Resources and selecting the Branch Report & Credential Form. The form works best if you open it in Adobe Acrobat. Even though you may have a delegate coming to the convention, please include a “Proxy” as a precaution to some unforeseen reason the delegate cannot make the convention. The Regional Delegate form is to be sent to the following **not later than September 2, 2021**.

Original	Credentials Chair – PRPNW Pete Lazzaretti	
Copies	NED Slawinski	RPNW Danny Hunt
	NP Mick Fulton	RVPNW Michelle Davis
	NVP James Campbell	NWR Sec/Treas Peg Burke
	Delegate and Proxy	Branch Files



Annual Report of Officers is required to be submitted National and Regional Officers even if you do not change officers. Again, this report form works best if you open it in Adobe Acrobat. It will change the size of the font as you fill in the blocks of the form. Note: FRA is getting close to launching the automatic input of officers directly online. Membership at FRA HQ will be training on how to do this.

The report is to be sent to the following **June 10th of each year**.

Original	NED Chris Slawinski	
Copies	RPNW Danny Hunt	Regional Sec/Treas – Peg Burke
	RVPNW Michelle Davis	Branch Files

If you need help in navigating through the annual report needs, or where to find them on the FRA website, I am more than happy to be of help. This form can be found in the same location as the national delegate form.

In Loyalty, Protection, and Service

Margret ‘Peg’ Burke
NWR Secretary/Treasurer, PRPNW

<p>Parliamentarian: PNP M.W. "John" Johnson Mt. Rainier Branch #104 6202 82nd St E. Puyallup, WA 98371-5557 253-770-5935 mwjohn4@comcast.net</p>	<p>Chaplain JrPRPNW William H. Hall Gem State Branch #382 2472 N. Tangent Ave Meridian, ID 83646-7588 208-695-1664 Eaglesnest1048@gmail.com</p>	<p>Credentials Cmte Chair: PRPNW Hazel Bettencourt Gem State Branch #382 1127 Caldwell Blvd, Apt 479 Nampa, ID 83651-1701 208-697-0755 hbettencourt1123@centurylink.net</p>
<p>Constitution & By-Laws Cmte Chair: Shipmate Richard Wilson Mt. Rainier Branch #104 101 East Road Tacoma, WA 98406-7632 425-736-6899 Fra-branch104@comcast.net</p>	<p>Disaster Relief Cmte Chair: Shipmate Jim Murrell Gem State Branch #382 9644 W. Antietam Ct Boise, ID 83709-3560 208-362-4913 jlmurrell@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Membership & Retention Cmte Chair: Shipmate Michelle Davis Inland Empire Branch #038 4205 S. Helena Spokane, WA 99203-4308 509-448-3163 medavis@q.com</p>
<p>Americanism & Patriotism Cmte Chair: Shipmate Rex Faubion Mt. Rainier Branch #104 818 23rd St NW Puyallup, WA 98371-3988 HOME: 253-770-1067 rexfaubion@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Hospital, Welfare & Rehab Cmte Chair: Shipmate Michelle Davis Inland Empire Branch #038 4205 S. Helena Spokane, WA 99203-4308 509-448-3163 medavis@q.com</p>	<p>Public Relations Committee Chair: PRPNW Pete Lazzaretti Seattle Branch #18 35703 16th Ave S., Apt D102 Federal Way, WA 98003-7532 253-444-7516 pr@frabbranch18.org</p>
<p>Veterans Services Cmte Chair: PRPNW Tom Flanik Gem State Branch #382 15686 Cumulus Way Caldwell, ID 83607-5159 208-455-8100 gunny@sos.net</p>	<p>Youth Activities Committee Chair: PRPNW Roger Christopher Gem State Branch #382 840 E. Riverpark Lane Boise, ID 83706-4099 208-794-6637 rwchristopher@gmail.com</p>	<p>Legislative Services Cmte Chair – S/M Ryan Nabors: Mt. Rainier Branch #104 6846 Prosik Lane SW Tumwater, WA 98512 360-888-2884 naborsrb@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Budget & Finance Cmte Chair: PRPNW Tom Flanik Gem State Branch #382 15686 Cumulus Way Caldwell, ID 83607 208-455-8100 gunny@sos.net</p>	<p>Time & Place Cmte Chair: PNP M W "John" Johnson Mt Rainier Branch #104 6206 82nd St E Puyallup, WA 98371-5557 HOME: 253-770-5935 mwjohn4@comcast.net</p>	<p>Webmaster PRPNW Roger Christopher Gem State Branch #382 https://fra-nwregion.org Please bookmark and visit Webmaster@fra-nwregion.org</p>

VIETNAM BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS

Disability benefits available to those serving offshore

Agent Orange Exposure in the Republic of Vietnam Waters (Blue Water Navy)

Blue Water Navy Veterans are now entitled to a presumption of service connection for conditions related to Agent Orange exposure. This extension of the presumption is a result of [Public Law 116-23](#), the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, signed into law on June 25, 2019. The law takes effect January 1, 2020.

The law states that Veterans aboard a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in [Public Law 116-23](#), between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange and may be entitled to service connection for conditions related to that exposure.

To be entitled to disability compensation benefits, these Veterans must have one or more of the conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure that are listed in 38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e).

What conditions are related to Agent Orange exposure?

Agent Orange presumptive conditions are:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne, or other acneform disease consistent with chloracne
- Chronic B-cell leukemias
- Diabetes mellitus, Type 2
- Ischemic heart disease
- Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin's disease
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- Multiple myeloma
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early-onset
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma).
- Bladder Cancer
- Hypothyroidism
- Parkinsonism, or Parkinson-like symptoms

How do I file a claim for disability compensation?

- Apply online using www.va.gov, **OR**
- Work with an accredited representative or agent, **OR**
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our Facility Locator page.
- State on your application that you are filing for one of the presumed Agent Orange conditions.

- Include any evidence you have of service in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the required timeframe. Include the name(s) of the ship(s) and the date(s) you crossed within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam, if you have that information.
- Provide medical evidence showing a diagnosis of a current Agent Orange presumptive condition or tell us where you are being treated.

For more information on how to apply and for tips on making sure your claim is ready to be processed by VA, visit our Disability Compensation web page. www.va.gov

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to prove contact with Agent Orange?

No. You don't need to show that you came into contact with Agent Orange. Congress has provided that conditions on the list of presumptive diseases will be deemed to have been caused by contact with Agent Orange through service in the Republic of Vietnam, including offshore waters as defined by the Blue Water Navy Act of 2019.

What will the effective date for Benefits be for Blue Water Navy Veteran claims?

Presumptive Agent Orange conditions granted for Blue Water Navy Veterans may be retroactive to the date VA received your original claim. If you had a previously denied claim and you resubmit your claim, the effective date will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

When do the Blue Water Navy presumptions go into effect?

The Blue Water Navy Act of 2019 will take effect on January 1, 2020. Veterans can file claims at any time, and they will be decided after the law is implemented. Blue Water Navy claims and appeals currently in process have been placed on hold (stayed) until the new rules go into effect. The bipartisan Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act gives VA until Jan. 1, 2020, to begin deciding Blue Water Navy related claims. By staying claims decisions until that date, VA is complying with the law that Congress wrote and passed.

How will the previously denied claims be handled?

If you had an Agent Orange claim with one or more presumptive conditions denied in the past, you are urged to **file a new claim**. Provide any new and relevant information regarding your claim such as dates you believe your ship traveled within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam, or updated medical information. Claims that are currently in the VA review process or under appeal will be reviewed under the new policy.

If a Blue Water Navy Veteran has not applied for benefits in the past, but would like to apply now will the presumption of exposure be extended to them?

Yes, VA will apply the provisions of the law to Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans who file new claims based on presumption of exposure to Agent Orange.

What happens if the Veteran dies before his or her claim is decided?

If the claimant dies while his or her claim is pending, a living dependent, such as a spouse or child, may file a request to be substituted as the claimant.

May the surviving spouse of a Blue Water Navy Veteran who passed away from a condition related to Agent Orange exposure, and who was previously denied compensation for such condition, become entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)?

If the Veteran served on a Navy or Coast Guard ship that that operated not more than 12 nautical miles from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in the [Blue Water Navy Act of 2019](#) and the cause of death was from a condition related to exposure to Agent Orange, then VA may award entitlement to DIC on that basis.

Where can I get additional information on disability compensation for Agent Orange?

Veterans with questions about benefits or filing a claim can visit the VA Agent Orange website www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/navy-coast-guard-ships-vietnam/. They can also call the disability benefits call center at 800-827-1000.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Vietnam Veteran?

or

Know a Vietnam Veteran

with One or More of the Following Conditions?

- ✓ Type II Diabetes (Adult –onset)
- ✓ Prostate Cancer
- ✓ Parkinson's Disease
- ✓ Hodgkin's Disease
- ✓ B Cell Leukemias
- ✓ Chloracne (must occur within one year of exposure to Agent Orange)
- ✓ Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy
- ✓ Respiratory Cancers (cancer of the lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- ✓ Soft Tissue Sarcoma (*other than* osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma)
- ✓ Bladder Cancer
- ✓ Hypothyroidism
- ✓ Parkinsonism, or Parkinson-like symptoms
- ✓ Ischemic Heart Disease
- ✓ Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- ✓ Multiple Myeloma
- ✓ Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- ✓ Porphyria Cutanea Tarda

If you are a veteran with an honorable discharge who served in-country in Vietnam you may be entitled to service-connected disability benefits from the VA.

If awarded service-connected disability benefits you may also be entitled to medical/prescription benefits for those conditions.

Surviving Spouse of a Vietnam Veteran?

or

Know a Surviving Spouse of a Vietnam Veteran

Who Passed Away from One of the Conditions Above?

(or one of the above conditions was listed as a contributing factor in the Veteran's death on the death certificate)

If you are the surviving spouse of a qualifying Vietnam Veteran who passed away due to one of the conditions listed above, or due to complications from those primary conditions, you may be entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits based on the Veteran's death.

Please Call Us Today to See if You May Qualify!

Idaho Division of Veterans Services

Office of Veterans Advocacy

(208) 780-1380

www.veterans.idaho.gov

