



Veneta Veterans Report



Fern Ridge Jack Kelley Post 9448
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the
United States

Volume 9 Issue 3

March 2017

The Post Commander's Corner



Comrades, Hello:

I would first like to start this news corner with this - I Apologize. I have been absent from my duties. This was addressed at are last post meeting. I will do my best not to miss any more deadlines in the future. With that said let me move on to other topics I have chosen to share with you. First, some good news. We have obtained are membership goals for this current year and have reached the 100% bench mark (123 members). This is one of the goals needed to reach the All American standings. This is a task not all post obtains. Thanks to all that made this happen. Earlier this month I attended my first state conference, our annual Mid-Winter Conference held at the Shilo Inn, Newport Or. This was not a VFW Conference without some disappointments. I will not go into any details other than to say this, if another conference is held at this same venue I will not attend if given the option. As for the VFW side of the weekend I was very pleased. The presentation for the Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy contestants was awesome. The top three winners were permitted to share their own comments and then they read their papers. I was very moved by the insight of these young students. I enjoyed the three papers so much that I asked for copies of all the contestants. My plan for them is to share them and use them as examples in future applicant recruiting. Are post was identified as one of the districts few post to have reach 100% membership goals. A plaque will be given for us to display when it can be ordered and received. I came away from this gathering hearing a strong message from those how spoke that we all have work to do. Speakers continued to talk about post being active within their communities. Membership, education programs and visibility in our community being very important. *(Continued on Page 4)*

Upcoming Events

Next Meeting: March
20th 7pm, **Veneta Community Center, 25192 E**
Broadway, Veneta, OR.

District 13 Meeting.
April 14th, 10am, Creswell
Post 4039. 111 S 10th St,
Creswell, OR. Elections,

Dept of OR Convention.
June 13 -17th, Kah-Nee-Ta
Resort, Warm Springs OR. **See**
Details at www.vfwor.org.

Also in this issue...

- **Page 5 - Post Voice of Democracy Banquet**
- **Page 6 - Pictures from Bev Ritari Memorial Service.**
- **Page 7 - Voice of Democracy Banquet.**

Please note the business card sized ads of businesses who have contributed to the Flag Fund for replacement and repair of flags.

Publisher and Editor:
Stan Ritari.

(Please submit articles for future issues to sritari@msn.com)

Post Officers

- Post Commander:
Kim Kaufman
- Senior Vice Commander:
George Vaughn
- Junior Vice Commander:
Chad Laing
- Post Quartermaster:
Kathy Lundeen
- Post Adjutant: Michael Beyerlin
- Post Chaplain: Ben Bennett
- Post Service Officer: Michael Beyerlin

**From The Post Auxiliary President - Laurel Laing**

Dear Auxiliary and Post Members,

I want to thank each and everyone of you for helping with Beverly Ritari's Memorial and Life Celebration. It was the first time we as an auxiliary have preformed the VFW Auxiliary Memorial Ritual, our Charter was Draped in her memory. It was my pleasure to talk a bit about Beverly's life, time between birth and death. She accomplished many things in her life, loved her family and friends. Beverly will be missed. Pastor Pat Coy gave his address and eulogy, also reading the poem "The Dash". Again thank you Auxiliary and Post members for giving your love and support to Stanley and his family.

Due to Bev Ritari's passing I have appointed the following officers for the ensuing year. I have appointed as our Auxiliary Secretary, Sandra Christensen. I have also appointed District 13 Secretary Carolin Pettit. I appreciate both of these members excepting these positions.

Our next meeting is March 20, 7 PM at the Community Center. We have lots of business to take care of, also preparing for our Dist. 13 Meeting. Please be prepared to give your chairman reports as this is the last timer do so. April 5 is the deadline to turn all our program reports in to Department. We are 100% in reporting.

Sandy Christiansen was shopping at Bi Mart when she came across a great sale on long-johns. Sandy talked with the store manager and convinced him to mark the price down further to \$4.79. She spent a total of \$426.31 on 48 sets of long-johns. Our Post and Auxiliary have each put \$250 toward our Stand Down project totaling \$500 to be spent on long-johns for our up-and-coming Stand Down. Big thank you Sandy for shopping and getting a great deal, Post and Auxiliary for helping our veterans and their families.

Glynis Beyerlin our treasurer is preparing to update our auxiliary roster. She will bring a copy of it for each of you, please be prepared to have correct information spelling of name, address, Email and telephone numbers. If you have family members that you have brought in to Auxiliary please have their updated information with you. Please make a few calls to them and help us with this process. This information will also be entered into the VFW Auxiliary Malta Center, that way you will receive your magazine from national and all the important information they would like to send you.

God Bless You,

Laurel Laing President

Honoringveterans6768@gmail.com

541-729-1268

**From The District 13 Auxiliary President - Laurel Laing**

As your Dist 13 President, I have called all auxiliaries asking permission to come for a non-official visit. Glynis Beyerlin and myself will visit with you at our up-and-coming meeting under the good of the order. We have exciting news to share with you.

District 13 Meeting

I want to remind our auxiliary of our up-and-coming District 13 Meeting and encourage all our members to come meet and listen to our Dept. Representative Debbie Fawver and hear her encouraging words.

I look forward to seeing each of you there. Let's have a fun-working together helping our Veterans and their Families.

I want to say that I'm proud of all the Auxiliaries in Dist. 13. We have all worked hard to help our Veterans and their Families and for working all the National Programs. I also want to thank each Auxiliary for letting Glynis and I come visit for a fun non~official visit. I have encouraged the other auxiliaries to come and visit us and I encourage us to go visit the other five auxiliaries in our district. I believe the better we know one other the stronger our Dist. will become. I'm excited about our Spring Meeting. Please encourage all members to attend. We will have Election of Officers for 2018/2019. Installation of officers to follow that afternoon. If you been elected to a position please don't leave till after you have been installed. A thank you to all who served as an officer for me this year. I appreciate your dedication.

Date: April 14, 2018

Time: 10:00AM Meeting ~ Noon Potluck

Place: Creswell post 4039, Creswell Oregon

If you have any questions please don't has to take to call.

God Bless You,

Laurel Laing

Dist. 13 President

Honoringveterans6768@gmail.com

541.729.1268



(Continued from Page 1, Commander's Corner)

My other issue that I will touch on, is our current standing with regard to the Veterans Memorial project. We have raised a little over \$5000.00 from are community efforts and have other donations pledged –pending . The following is a list of donors that have committed to the memorial project.

1. Veneta City Counsel — donation of site
2. Dale Hernandez — Architect
3. Don Poage — Poage Engineer
4. Owen Grover — Engineer Architect
5. Imber const. — cement, brick, landscaping
6. Ken Tellez — Reynolds elec.-Lights/wiring/installation/4 workers
7. Owner — Noti Quarry (Hale Valley rock) all rock needed.
8. Donor wall — Ivan Hernandez-- Carpenter Shadow box for donation credit
9. Local Artist — Mural – an auxiliary post member
10. Delta sand & gravel — Product discount-Sand/gravel

Cash Donations: Veneta Residents - weekly donation jars (10 locations) , Veteran day BBQ (Yukon Jacks), Lions Club, Larry Connie, Oregon Country Fair, and thus funds continue to grow. Grants are out and funds pending . Our goal is \$10,000.00 and I think we will reach that soon.

My last item to cover is a difficult issue. We as a post and auxiliary family have had a past year full of hurt and loss. I am going to leave names out so as to not cause any more rough times. As this message is about reminding us all that we are family and need to pay attention to each opportunity to enjoy each other. Life is short but most do not stop often enough to enjoy the people and life's little enjoyments until we loss them. Most of are members are a bit past middle age. So I am asking you all to stop and give a blessing to the ones in your life that mean something to you. Do it before the celebration of life and or the distance between that person and you is to far to travel. We owe each other that much if not more.

Best wishes to you and yours,
Kim kaufman,
VFW Commander

Marilyn Hird Manager



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Reprinted from the Fern Ridge Review - December 27th.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

VFW sponsors scholarship competition

By **Scottie Barnes**

Fern Ridge Review

On Dec. 19, Veneta's Jack Kelley VFW Post 9448 recognized the local the annual Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy (VOD), Boy Scout of the Year and Teacher of the Year recipients.

Each year since 1947, the VFW has been sponsoring patriotic-themed scholarship competitions. Locally, Veneta's Jack Kelley VFW Post 9448 and Auxiliary have been hosting these contests for the past seven years.

In VOD, Melissa Buckley won first place, \$150 and a certificate for her speech on "Our Hope for the Future." The contest provides students in grades 9-12 the opportunity to explore democratic ideals and principles through audio essays. Students wrote and then recorded a 3- to 5-minute speech to present to the local post for judging. The first-place national winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship and a trip to Washington, D.C.

Laci Rae Hart, an eighth-grade student from Thurston Middle School, won this year's Patriot's Pen essay contest and received \$150 and a certificate. The Patriot's Pen essay contest is for students in grades 6-8 and challenges them to reflect on American history and their own experiences based on a patriotic theme. This year, contestants wrote a 300-400-word paper on the theme "Ameri-

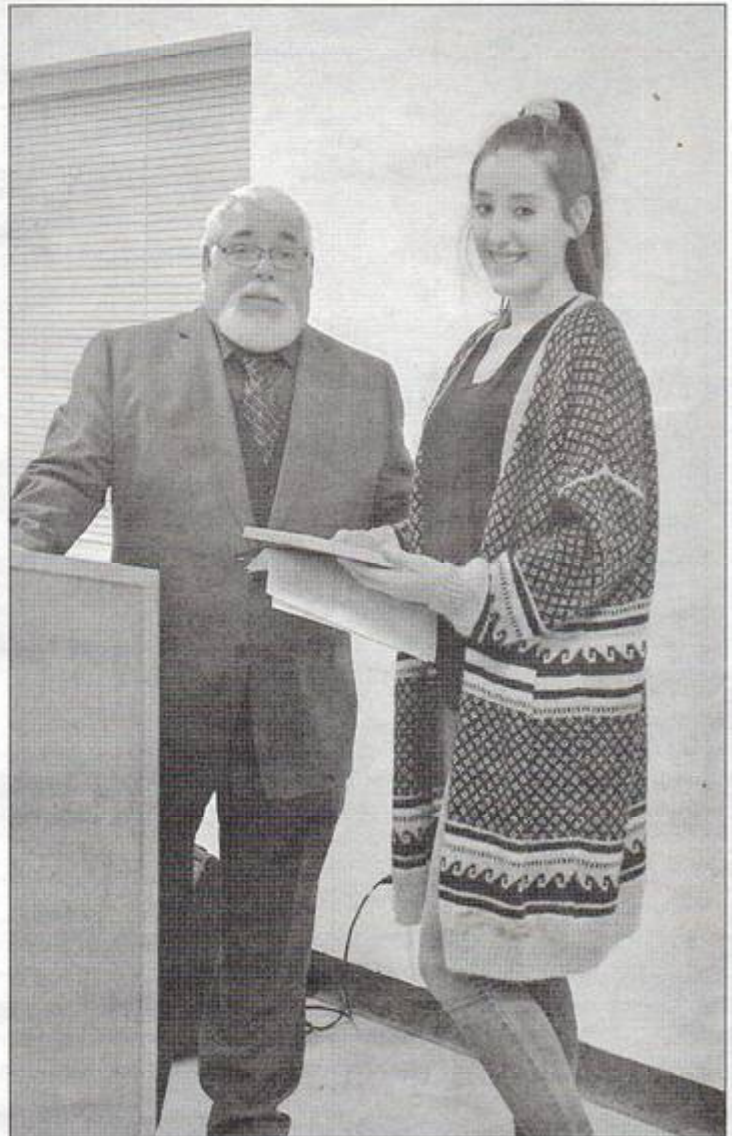
ca's Gift to My Generation." The first-place national winner in this competition receives \$5,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C.

"It's an honor to have these young people share their beliefs with us about patriotic themes," said VFW Auxiliary President Laurel Laing. "When you hear them speak, you know America is in good hands."

The Post then honored the Boy Scout of the Year: 15-year-old Ethan E. Yost of Troop 359. Yost received \$100 and a certificate for being a positive example for American youth and perpetuating the Boy Scout motto, as well as supporting the VFW. Yost is active in student government, holds a 4.08 GPA, has achieved Life Rank in Scouting and is currently working on his Eagle Scout. "If approved by Scout leadership, he will be working to help complete the Veterans Memorial Project in Veneta," explained Post 9448 Commander Kim Kaufman.

Finally, Katherine Klontz, a 9th/10th grade English Teacher at Willamette Leadership Academy, received the Teacher of the Year Award. Though she was unable to attend the banquet, VFW representatives will travel to the academy to present the award in front of the students and fellow teachers who submitted her nomination.

VFW encourages students to look for the announcement of next year's contest in the fall and enter. More than 120,000 students



VFW Post Commander Kim Kaufman with Voice of Democracy speech winner Melissa Buckley

participate across the nation each year, vying for the national award: an all-expense paid trip to Wash-

ington, DC where they and their parents meet the president, as well as receive cash awards.



Thank You all for attending! Stan Ritari



Dept of OR Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year Banquet, January 20, 2018



Dept of OR High School Teacher of the Year, Jonathan Gault Representing District 13 and Springfield Post 3965.



Pictured above left, Phillip Dunnagan, State Winner, VOD. At Right is our District 13 VOD winner, Ally Warner with District President Laurel Laing and District Commander, Michael Beyerlin.



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Meeting Time: 7:30am, 2nd & 4th Thursday
 Fire District #1 on Territorial Road, Veneta, OR



Fern Ridge Jack Kelley Post 9448
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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