



NCW Vets Gazette

Issue 12 - Dec 2020 / Jan 2021

A Newsletter for the Veterans in Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan Counties

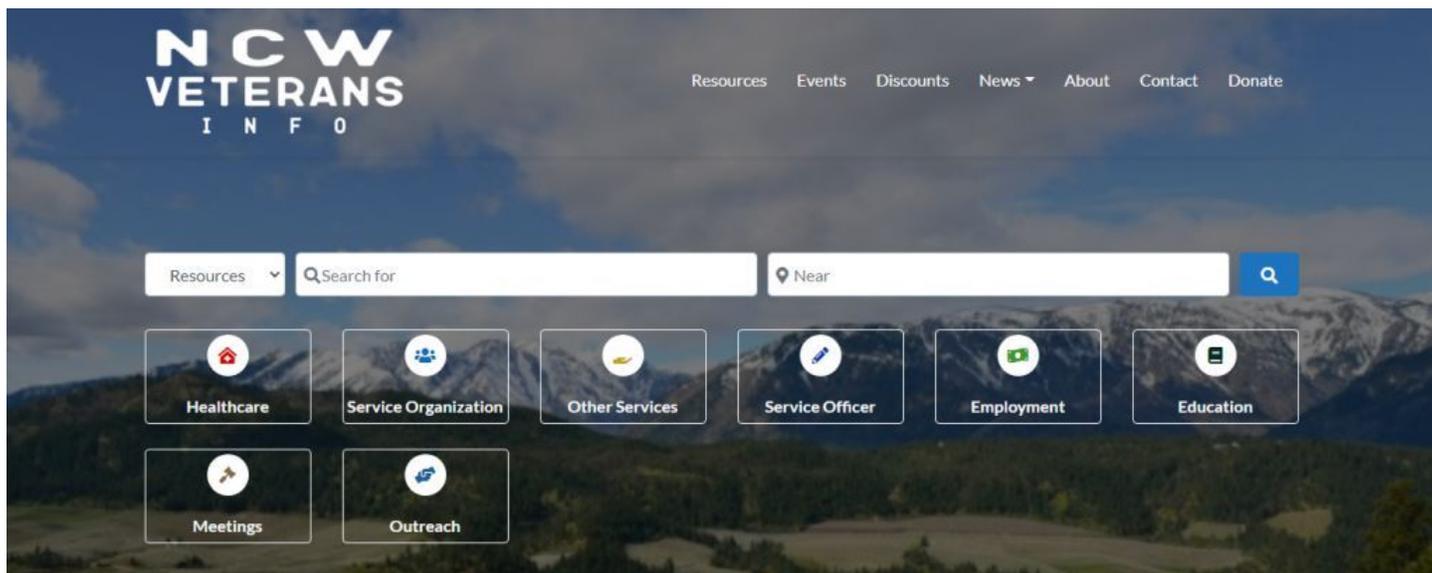
Wrapping Up 2020 & Looking Ahead

This year has been a very strange year for all of us. Twelve months ago, no one would have suspected we'd be preparing for the holidays having seen all that we've seen: a global pandemic that some still don't believe is real, civil unrest met only with the thing which was being protested, unemployment and food insecurity on a scale we haven't seen in nearly a century, an election that permanently divided families, and a massive shift in how we as a society do business every day.

Yet here we are: hosting meetings and conferences virtually (reducing cost and stress from travel), ordering online from our favorite local shops with curbside pickup, having the difficult conversations with friends and family about systemic issues and how to change them, and looking forward to a brighter tomorrow as we work together instead of letting our fierce independence isolate us.

As I've said before, Veterans know how to adapt - it comes from our military training. I have begun to adapt NCW Veterans Info, and I hope you all continue to adapt in your own lives as we move into the new year, because that's the best way to ensure our collective success.

New Look for the Website



As promised, I completed a relaunch of the website www.ncwveterans.info in early November. Thank you for your patience as I implemented this new look, new directory and calendar system, and started posting more blogs. If you haven't yet, **please take a look and check it out.**

And check back often, as there's always something new being posted. Also, if you represent one of the resources in the directory, please review the listings for accuracy and completeness. Any additional information or photos can be sent via email to whatsnew@ncwveterans.info.

Reminders Regarding COVID-19

This virus isn't going away (it's actually getting worse during this time of year), and there's no quick fix waiting in the wings. So we need to adopt a few new "normal" habits:

- Don't stand or sit so close, especially in groups
- Wear a mask when around others
- Keep your hands to yourself, and wash/sanitize them often

Science tells us the virus moves on the droplets in our breath, so prolonged talking and breathing in close proximity to others is a common transmission method. Give each other space and wear a face covering to keep your droplets to yourself when possible.

The more we can adhere to these best practices now, the sooner we can open back up. There is no economy if half of us are sick and dying, after all.

STAY BACK, JACK!

SOCIAL DISTANCING IS A THING NOW.



SPEAK LOUDER. USE AIR FIST BUMPS.

If you want the most reliable information, always check in with the most reliable sources:

World Health Organization: www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

WA Department of Health: www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus

Veterans Affairs: www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/



19 Dec 2020

Wreaths Across America

"Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to **Remember, Honor and Teach** is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad."

Generally in October, local groups start requesting funds for wreath sponsorship. Then in December, when the wreaths are delivered to their location, volunteers place a wreath on the headstones of Veterans in the local cemeteries. There is often a short ceremony as well. Check with local scout troops or similar organizations for information about an event near you.

Looking for Work? Want to Skill Up?

Is it time to reconsider your current career path? Have you lost work due to COVID restrictions? Are you just looking for some training in new skills? Then you're in luck.

Worksource has partnered with North Central Regional Libraries to host a series of **virtual Meet The Employer** events in December. Free to attend, presented via Zoom, this is your chance to learn about the company and what they are looking for in hiring. Registration is required to receive the login link. Meetings are from 10 to 11am.

Tues, 8 December: WinCo Foods

Tues, 15 December: Serengeti Care

For more details on these and to register, visit www.ncwlibraries.org/blog/virtual-job-training



WorkSource Veteran Reps:

Eileen Boylston

Eboylston@esd.wa.gov

(509) 766-4111

Terrie Garcia-Hernandez

mgarcia-hernandez@esd.wa.gov

(509) 423-6678



Another opportunity is the **free training** available at <https://upskill.gwata.org> - this site has a number of free courses aimed at helping you gain additional skills which will help in your job search or career change. Courses range in topics from Technical Development to specific Role-Based Skills, as well as resources that will help with the job search process. All you need is a LinkedIn account.

GWATA and LocalTel have teamed up to present an **Upskill-a-thon** for the month of December, with the chance to earn cash prizes while you are learning new skills. Visit the link above and click the large button to Register your team today!

Veterans Day Around the Region

In North Central Washington, we love our Veterans so much that Veterans Day events typically span nearly a week, from assemblies at the area schools, to parades, to luncheons, and more. With 2020 being the way that it is, a lot of these events were canceled, however I did hear that some continued with safe modifications. I did not receive a lot of photos or stories, but what I did hear about was posted on the website at www.ncwveterans.info/news - if you have a story or any photos to share, please send it my way and I'll get it posted as well.



Manson American Legion Post 108 and Chelan VFW Post 6853 came together to present the colors on Nov 8th at North Shore Bible Church's Veterans Day event.

From Your Veteran Service Officers



Tony Sandoval
Chelan County VSO
 428 Orondo Ave,
 Wenatchee
 9am - 4pm Mon - Thurs
(509) 667-6906
 tony.sandoval@
 co.chelan.wa.us

While our office remains closed to walk-ins, we are still very much open to receiving calls, emails, and faxes. We are definitely still here to help. With VA healthcare moving over to the new CERNER program, there was a lot of errors, in medications, appointments, etc, but we are working on getting the call center to be more accountable to answering the phones.

As far as disability, claims continue to be evaluated and granted. Blue Water Navy veterans who were within 12 nautical miles of the Vietnam coast and have Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions are encouraged to file a claim.

Also, our Vet Corps Navigators are hosting a weekly Zoom chat at 2pm on Tues & Thurs each week, to ask questions or just chat.



Sarah Simonson
Douglas County VSO
 211 11th St NE (VFW Post
 3617, East Wenatchee)
 9am - 3pm Tues - Friday
(509) 683-3605
 vso@co.douglas.wa.us

We continue to work on VA cases and are looking forward to the new metrics coming out soon. The most recent metrics show me on course to meet the 80% acceptance rate.

Please welcome Jose Solis as our Vet Corps Navigator. He is working toward helping the DoCo VSO Office become more visible in the community. His ideas include possible radio ads and hosting of COVID-safe events.

Thanks to Tony Sandoval of Chelan County VSO and Pete O’Cain from the Wenatchee World for stepping out to remind Veterans and Veteran Families to plan ahead as much as they can. I’ve already gotten three new cases to work on thanks to this timely reminder.

No update at this time.



Pam Stevens
Okanogan County VSO
 1 Tonasket Shop Rd
 8am - 3pm Mon-Thu
 8am - 2pm Fridays
(509) 486-2121
 vso@co.okanogan.wa.us

Jerry Gingrich
Grant County VSO
(509) 754-2011 x2931
 jtgingrich@grantcountywa.gov

What's Up Vet!



Our Vet Corps Navigators have come up with a COVID-safe way to stay in touch and be available to answer questions about veteran benefits: **weekly Zoom chats**.

Join our Navigators Jose Solis, Trent Mortensen, Mark Harle, and Joe Garek every Tuesday and Thursday between 2-4pm via zoom. No registration required.

Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358564972> or visit Zoom to Join and enter **Meeting ID 863 5856 4972**

These chats are open to all veterans, spouses, dependents, or anyone who might have questions for a veteran. The Navigators will be answering questions about resources, benefits, going back to school, or any other info that may come up.



Civil Air Patrol



All of our meetings have gone completely virtual thanks to the hard work of Capt Audra Keyanna, Dept Commander for Cadets.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Cadets Audrey Skupic and Alexandria Toledo-Blanchfield, both from East Wenatchee. This brings our squadron up to 19 total members.

TRAINING

2nd Lt Douglas Gardner has completed Character Development Specialty track, Communications track, and several Emergency Services Training schools for Ground Team Member 3 level.

PROMOTIONS

- Austin Jeffris to c/Tech Sergeant and "A" Flight Element Leader
- Oliver Cawdery to c/Airman and "A" Flight Element Leader



On 31 Oct, Retired USAF Major General Mike Worden presented the prestigious **General Billy Mitchell Award** to c/2nd Lt **Caleb Darlington**, honoring the completion of the leadership phase of the CAP cadet program. Keith Goehner, State Representative for Legislative District 12, read the citation at the ceremony.

In photo, Left to Right, State Representative Keith Goehner (Legislative District 12), Major General Mike Worden (USAF ret.), Cadet Second Lieutenant Caleb Darlington (CAP), Major Morris Hahn (CAP) (Photo by Audra Keyanna)



American Legion

While monthly in-person meetings may have resumed in the fall, most are currently on hold again due to recent restrictions by the Governor. I've listed the normal meeting times here for reference. Please check with each Post for complete details.

Post 10 (Wenatchee)
208 N Wenatchee Ave
(509) 663-5912

Post 28 (Ephrata)
276 8th Ave NW
(509) 754-2761

Post 56 (Okanogan)
860 N 2nd Street
(509) 826-2610

Post 64 (Cashmere)
401 Sunset Highway
(509) 782-4973

Post 82 (Tonasket)
319 S Western
(509) 486-2382

Post 84 (Oroville)
314 14th Ave
(509) 476-2761

Post 97 (Brewster)
102 N 3rd St
(509) 689-3307

Post 108 (Manson)
142 Pedoi St
(509) 888-3831

Post 143 (Twisp)
626 Bridge St
(509) 997-5322

Post 157 (Electric City)
31 Coulee Rd
(509) 631-1839

Post 209 (Moses Lake)
538 W Broadway
(509) 765-1126

Post 10, Wenatchee

For updates on when our Post and Bar will be open again, please watch the website: www.post10wenatchee.org
Monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

Post 28, Ephrata

Monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

Post 56, Okanogan

We had meetings in Sept, Oct, and Nov, but have to cancel our Christmas Party (originally scheduled for 05 Dec) and Dec meeting. We hope to resume meetings in January.

Monthly meetings on 3rd Monday at 7pm.

Post 64, Cashmere

Monthly meetings on 1st Thursday at 7pm.

Post 82, Tonasket

Monthly meetings on 1st Monday at 5pm.

Hodges Post 84, Oroville

Monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

Columbia Post 97, Brewster

We were finally able to open back up in early November, but the new restrictions have shut us down again.

Monthly meetings on 1st Wednesday at 6pm.

Manson Post 108

Reminder: temp meeting location change, now in the Hub at North Shore Bible Church, 123 Wapato Point Pkwy, Manson.

Monthly meetings on 1st Monday at 7pm.

Methow Post 143

Monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

Post 157, Electric City

Monthly meetings on 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

While monthly in-person meetings may have resumed in the fall, most are currently on hold again due to recent restrictions by the Governor. I've listed the normal meeting times here for reference. Please check with each Post for complete details.



Post 24 George
Meets at Quincy Senior
Center (even months) /
Moses Lake Elks Lodge (odd
months)
(509) 750-0938

Post 3617 Wenatchee Valley
211 11th St NE
East Wenatchee
(509) 884-3617

Post 6853 Chelan
427 Bradley St, Chelan
(509) 679-4949

George Washington Post 24

We are excited to announce the formation of our Auxiliary, which has nearly a dozen active members already.
Monthly meetings on 2nd Saturday at 10am.

Post 3617, Wenatchee Valley

We are planning to start doing virtual meetings via Zoom. To help members get comfortable with the platform, we've started hosting a causal Coffee Chat on Friday mornings.
Monthly meetings on 3rd Wednesday at 7pm.

Post 6853, Chelan

Work continues on our new Post Home.
Monthly meetings on 1st Tuesday at 6:30pm.



SCREAMING OCTOPUS

Holiday Donation Drive

Screaming Octopus, a multi-modal massage clinic serving the Wenatchee Valley, has teamed up with new veteran-focused nonprofit **Tour of Duty Foundation** to host a holiday donation drive benefiting area veterans. Chantz and Cherise are accepting donations of **non-perishable food items, grocery store gift cards, new socks and gloves**, and gently used items like coats and boots. There is a tote outside the East Wenatchee location (101 Eastmont Ave, Suite B) to accept donations, which will then be sanitized and re-bagged for distribution.

Donations accepted until 16 December.

As an incentive, Cherise and Chantz are also offering discounts in their treatments when you bring in donations:

- \$1 off per can (up to 10 cans) for massage treatments
- \$1 off per can (up to 10 cans) on gift certificates for Cherise's services

In addition, Cherise will be donating 5% of all online sales during the donation drive. This includes gift certificates and pre-paid sessions. Buy your massages in bulk and know that part of the cost will go to a good cause this holiday season.



Please support our Sponsors:

 <p>Westguard Painting LLC Josh 881-5186 Reece 860-6493 www.westguardpainting.com 2019 World's Best Painter Free Estimates</p>	<p>Your AD Here</p>	<p>Your AD Here</p>
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Editor's Notes

I know I say it a lot, especially in this issue, but I really do depend on the **input from you**, the veterans in the community, to keep me in the loop. I can't be everywhere, so I need to hear from the "boots on the ground". To those who regularly send me stories to share, **Thank you**. I hope others are seeing your featured stories and will send me a message to brag a little when something interesting happens in their neck of the woods. I know bragging doesn't come easy, but I'm asking you to at least try.

Input could be newspaper articles, recap of recent events of any kind, or even just notice of awards given out in your specific organization. Speaking of, I hear some American Legion posts recently selected a **Legionnaire of the Year** - I would love to compile and share the full list of all awardees from across our region. *hint*hint*

On another note, this issue (#12) marks **2 full years** that I've been publishing this newsletter. It was always aimed at bringing more visitors to the website, but I'm not sure it still meets that goal without being distributed in print, so I will be revisiting that in the new year. Feedback welcomed.

Stay warm, safe, and healthy this winter. **~Connie**

Your AD Here

NCW Vets Gazette is a newsletter for Veterans in North Central Washington, provided free of charge in print and digital form courtesy of NCW Veterans Info. It is made possible with thanks to the continued support of VFW Post 3617, its Auxiliary, American Legion Post 10, and NCW Vets Serving Vets, among other local veteran organizations, as well as our Sponsors & generous community members (like you).

Contact:
 Connie Hill - (509) 433-7879
whatsnew@ncwveterans.info
www.facebook.com/ncwveterans

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24/7 Support
 Crisis Line:
800.273.8255
 Vets4Warriors:
855.838.8255

**Mann-Grandstaff
 VA Medical Center**
 4815 N. Assembly St - Spokane
 (509) 434-7000 (800) 325-7940
www.spokane.va.gov

Wenatchee VA Clinic (CBOC)
 2350 Chester-Kimm Rd
 (509) 663-7615
 weekdays 7:30am - 4pm